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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Amanda wins regional business award

More kudos for Aughton restaurant

TOP JUDGE HAILS HAVE-A-GO-HERO

Report by **Lynda Roughley**

Brave burglary victim, 63, knocks 25-year-old intruder's tooth out and blood traces help police track him down

AN Ormskirk householder who bravely punched a burglar knocking out a tooth has been praised by a top judge.

And as well as losing his tooth, when he was caught by police four months later the intruder, Craig Ford, was bitten by a police dog after he kicked it while struggling to avoid arrest.

Jailing the three-strike burglar, Judge Clement Goldstone, QC, the Recorder of Liverpool, told him: "You've learnt two lessons I hope. One is you do not mess with David Oldham and, two, you don't mess with the police.

"I'm delighted to say that for your pains in committing these offences you now have one tooth less than you had before and you got bitten by a dog. It is the least you deserve."

Liverpool Crown Court heard that 63-year-old Mr Oldham - who also punched Ford's accomplice - ended up with Ford's blood on him which enabled police to identify him.

Sentencing Ford to three years and four months the judge again praised the householder saying "full marks to Mr Oldham for the way in which he responded to what you did to invade his property."

Craig Ford got more than he bargained for when he tried to burgle the home of David Oldham in Ormskirk.

"He gave you more than you bargained for because when he confronted you at the side of his house, disguised so only your eyes and nose were visible, he punched you.

"And not only did he punch you but when your accomplice, who had been breaking in upstairs and jumped down from the roof, he punched him as well.

"Not surprisingly because that is the sort of person you are you attacked him but it was part and parcel of a particularly mean burglary."

The judge added: "How sad it is that someone who had been living in his house for a long time with his wife felt he had to move as a result."

Derek Jones, prosecuting, told Liverpool Crown Court that at the time of the burglary in April this year Ford was on licence from a three-year sentence imposed in 2016.

Confronted

About 7 pm on April 5 Mr Oldham was at his home in Altys Lane, Ormskirk, when he heard noises and looking out he saw Ford who had his coat zipped up with his hood down and looking upwards.

"Mr Oldham, a man of some substance, bravely went out to the side of the property and was confronted by the defendant who moved towards him. Fearing for his safety he punched him once to the face which knocked him to the floor and also knocked a tooth out."

The other intruder then jumped down from the roof landing in front of Mr Oldham who instinctively punched him to the face causing him to stumble backwards.

"The defendant had got back up and both males scuffled with him and began to punch him and Mr Oldham ended up being pushed into a bush."

Mr Jones said that the accomplice picked up a plank of wood and swung it at Mr Oldham and Ford said: "Shoot him, he's knocked my teeth out."

The accomplice said to Mr Oldham, "We'll just leave it now if you let us go" and they both fled the scene and drove off.

Police saw him on July 28 in Belmont Road, West Derby, and after running to a Ford Kuga he sped off causing a policeman to have to step out the way. He was pursued during which he went through a red traffic light and the wrong way down West Derby Road before he turned off and disappeared.

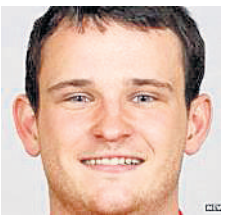
On August 2 police raided a house in Cinema Drive, Wavertree, and Ford was agitated and struggled violently and kicked out at police dog Malik. The handler released the dog which

Continued inside

Man arrested over murder of Tarleton football coach in USA six years ago

A MAN wanted in connection with the murder six years ago of a popular football coach from Tarleton has been arrested after two Mexican police originally sent to detain him were shot dead.

Michael Jones was working as a coach for the New York Red Bulls soccer league team when he was fatally stabbed in Union Square, Manhattan, in 2012.



Michael Jones.

A New York Police spokesman said the 25-year-old coach had been found with stab wounds to his head and neck and it was believed likely to be a case of mistaken identity.

His suspected assailant, 39-year-old Mexican Orlando Orea, 39, fled to his homeland two days later just before police added his name to a no-fly list.

New York's police commissioner said at the time that he had left a note apologising for the attack.

Orea was finally captured last Thursday (September 27). Two Mexican federal agents had been killed the day before while trying to serve a provisional extradition warrant on him. He was afterwards detained without a struggle following a major search involving federal and state agents, and air support. He is now being held in custody.

US news reports say he could be made to stand trial in Mexico for the murders of the two detectives before he is extradited to face trial in the US for the murder of Michael.

Liverpool fan Michael Jones, who was known as Jonesy, had coached the Red Bulls youth team for five years after studying sports science at Edge Hill University. A former Tarleton High School pupil he had played football for Tarleton Corinthians and Hesketh Bank FC

Hundreds attended his funeral in Preston and a memorial service in New York in October 2012. And a minute's applause was arranged in his honour at a New York Red Bulls game against Sporting Kansas City while players wore 'Jonesy' shirts and black armbands.

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Virgin refutes claims over 'too early' appointments at clinic

VIRGIN Care has refuted claims that patients are being offered appointments for the Hants Lane Clinic outside of its actual opening hours.

Constituents had contacted West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper complaining that the company, which took over the running of health care services at the clinic in Ormskirk last year, was handing out appointments for 8.50am and 8.55am when they claimed the building isn't open.

However, a spokesperson for Virgin Care, said: "The clinic is open and operational at 8.45am so patients can come in and sit in the waiting room. The first appointments at Hants Lane are at 8.50am every day for people accessing the phlebotomy service.

"Our treatment room nurses will also work with service users to amend their appointments should they be having trouble attending or need to get to work for 9am."

Director of Burscough baby scan business scoops prestigious regional award

by Kenny Parker

A WEST Lancs businesswoman has won a prestigious honour at the 2018 Enterprise Vision Awards (EVA) which recognises women in business across the North West.

Amanda Stewart, from Tarleton who is a director at My Baby Scan Burscough, fought off competition from a number of successful entrepreneurs to triumph in the awards' New Business category.

My Baby Scan, situated at Burscough Wharf, was set up last year by Amanda and friends, Julie Mitchell from Burscough, and Alison Higham from Ormskirk, with the hope it would become a hub for pregnant mothers in the area.

All of the women are fully-qualified, NHS-trained sonographers and their business offers various services including baby massaging and baby first aid, as well as a scanning service for pregnant women at various stages of pregnancy, including 4D scanning for women beyond 24 weeks.

4D scans show 3D images of the baby actually moving.

Amanda receiving her New Business award.

Delighted

The EVA awards were founded in 2011. To win, entrants are scored and interviewed by judges, and there is also a public vote.

More than 550 guests attended the glittering ceremony at the Empress Ballroom at Blackpool Winter Gardens where 16 awards were presented.

On receiving her award Amanda said: "I'm absolutely delighted to win the award, it's a fantastic recognition of our hard work and we are so grateful for all the support from our clients.

"We are looking forward to the future and will enjoy the opportunities winning this award will bring....exciting times."

Coral Horn, organiser of the awards and founder of networking group, Pink Link Ladies, said: "Our eighth year of the awards was simply superb, we had thousands of entrants and I'd say that this year was perhaps the most fiercely contested yet."

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Judge praises brave burglary victim who confronted intruder

From Page 1

bit Ford in the area of his left shoulder while he was on the settee and he was handcuffed and arrested.

Ford, 25, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to burglary; assault by beating; driving dangerously, while disqualified and without a licence. He was banned from driving for 32 months.

Desmond Lennon, defending, said that Ford had been living an itinerant lifestyle after his release from prison and "had gone off the rails." At the time of the offences his grandmother, to whom he was close, was dying.

He had issues with accommodation and had reverted to criminality but hopefully this custodial sentence will start him on the path to change, said Mr Lennon.

Ford had driven in panic on seeing the police as he knew he was wanted but did not drive at the officer. "It was a short lived incident over in a matter of minutes and over short distance."

Moor Hall is awarded second Michelin star

A WEST Lancs fine dining restaurant is savouring its continued success after receiving two stars in the latest edition of the Michelin Guide for Great Britain and Ireland.

Moor Hall is a refurbished Grade II listed gentry house on Prescot Road, Aughton built in the 1500s. It opened as a restaurant in March of last year following a multi-million pound renovation after being taken over by new owners in 2015.

Since opening it has won a string of awards for its cuisine and also for its renovation at the 2017 West Lancashire Design Awards.

Mark Birchall, head chef at Moor Hall.

Most recently it was listed at 11 in the Good Food Guide (up from 26 last year) and was awarded a maximum of five rosettes by the AA Restaurant Guide.

Having received a Michelin star last year, it is one of only three new restaurants to receive two stars this year and one of only 20 in the entire Michelin guide to hold two.

Head chef, Mark Birchall said: "We're very proud of our achievements this year. The team has worked so hard to create both a food offering that is distinctive but accessible, and a service style that is welcoming and yet still professional."

Mark was no stranger to culinary success before joining Moor Hall as a business partner with owners, Andy and Tracey Bell. He was previously executive chef at Michelin-awarded L'Enclume, where he helped make the Cumbrian restaurant the Good Food Guide's best restaurant, and also achieve two Michelin stars and five AA rosettes.

While at L'Enclume Mark also won the Roux Scholarship, the premier competition for chefs in the UK in 2011.

Edge Hill graduates' 'don't text and drive' campaign adopted by Road Safety Partnership

THREE Edge Hill University graduates who masterminded a 'don't text and drive' poster campaign have seen their ideas come to life across Lancashire.

Designed to appeal to younger drivers, 'Arrive Alive' was devised by graduates of the Ormskirk campus business school, James McGarrie, Mark Williams and Alice Stockton.

It was chosen by Lancashire Road Safety Partnership to run across the county's police and fire and rescue services, local councils and Highways England.

The campaign's images have also gone on display on roads and in town centres across the region as part of National Phone Awareness Week, on digital screens in Blackburn town centre and outside Leyland, Ormskirk and Hyndburn fire stations.

Lancashire Road Safety Partnership co-ordinator, Rhiannon Leeds, said: "You're four times more likely to be involved in a collision if you use your mobile phone whilst driving.

"We wanted to work with Edge Hill students to see if they could devise a campaign to appeal to their peers and we're delighted that we've been able to reproduce Arrive Alive."

The project arose after Edge Hill's marketing and society module leader, Dr Susie Marriott, discussed current social issues with Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service's Chief Fire Officer Chris Kenny who highlighted the impact on the emergency services of texting while driving.

Marketing and digital communications graduate, Mark Williams, said: "This project followed months of theory and allowed us to bring all our knowledge together into a 'real life' campaign.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue's crew manager at Ormskirk, Graeme Spencer (left) displays one of the posters with James McGarrie and Mark Williams and Rhiannon Leeds of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership .

"We took inspiration from things that appeal to young people to make it relatable, the alliteration, font, colours. The shattered letters are meant to look like a broken phone screen.

"We wanted the black and white images to look surreal as if they're a memory. They don't show the crash just the car heading towards a person/car with the phone and the text conversation centre stage."

James McGarrie, a business innovation and enterprise graduate, added: "It's amazing to see the campaign come to life through banners, Gifs and across social media.

"I loved studying at Edge Hill and this campaign has been something tangible that I've been able to add to my CV. Now it's live we should be able to prove its reach and impact."

And Graeme Spencer, Lancashire Fire and Rescue's crew manager at Ormskirk, commented: "We've seen a rise in road traffic collisions related to mobile phone use. As a crew we cover a large rural area with lots of unlit and potentially dangerous minor roads.

"With a large student population in Ormskirk we're very happy to support this campaign in the hope it saves lives."

Charity walkers' marathon fundraising feat

VOLUNTEERS, military veterans and blue light workers raised more than £3,000 for Stable Lives with a 24-hour sponsored 44-mile walk.

Stable Lives, a community interest company based at Parbold Equestrian Centre, provides courses and utilises equine therapy and land-based activities to improve confidence, self-esteem and self-worth for those suffering with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and mental trauma.

The company staged the sponsored walk from Preston to its Parbold base over 24 hours to raise money and awareness about the effects that mental trauma can have on sufferers and their families.

As the walk passed through Wigan they were joined by members of the Wigan Warriors Super League rugby squad. And at the end of the walk they were met by the Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancs, Councillor Noel Delaney and Ann Stubbert

Carrie Byrom, the founder of Stable Lives, said: "The team that did the whole 24 hours were outstanding. They walked with minimal breaks for 44 miles carrying a stretcher. At the end there were a lot of very tired, sore muscles and badly-blistered feet!

"Although not all the money is in yet, we are hopeful that it will get to our £3,000 target to cover our autumn courses and respite days.

"If we get anymore donations then we can go ahead with a Christmas event that will involve a lot of the children and families that we have worked with this year.

"The Just Giving account will remain open until December."

For more information you can contact Stable Lives on Facebook; by email at stablelives@hotmail.com; or via the website at www.stable-lives.co.uk.

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University schedules themed activities to mark World Mental Health Day

EDGE Hill University is asking students and staff to grab one of their 'five a day' to mark World Mental Health Day on Wednesday, October 10.

Spearheaded by the Students' Union (SU) and involving departments from across the university, a bumper schedule of themed activities is planned around the five strands of wellbeing - connect, learn, be mindful, get active and give.

Activities include:

- A Torch Song Jukebox allowing people to sing their favourite song that make them feel better when things get tough.
- Positive Postcards - branded postcards with positive messages for students to send to each other or family to combat homesickness.
- Mindfulness training.
- Yoga and free swimming.
- Suicide prevention training.
- Break the Stigma T-shirts.
- Tea and talk – a chance to chat about feelings over a brew.
- Mental health myth busting stalls and stalls from external organisations/charities.

Molly Houghton, vice-president for Welfare at Edge Hill SU, said: "We want to make this year's World Mental Health Day the biggest one yet on campus, so we're focussing on all five strands of health and wellbeing."

The SU are also planning to launch a mental health survey on the day to find out what knowledge new and existing students have of the university's support services so they can better market these to those who need them most.

County council leader says authority hopes to balance books by 2021

Report by **Kenny Parker**

With £200m saved already, £130m savings agreed for delivery over next four years and more being sought, aim is to dispense with need to rely on reserves in three years' time

LEADER of Lancashire County Council, Geoff Driver (pictured) **has said the authority hopes to balance its books by 2020/21, meaning it will no longer need to rely on reserves to cover its expenditure.**

The latest 'Money Matters' report into the financial position at the authority, prepared by the interim chief executive and director of resources, Angie Ridgwell, showed that a slight revenue overspend is forecast for this financial year.

Members of the council's cabinet were told that a revenue overspend of £2.680m - equivalent to 0.35 per cent of the net revenue budget of £764.641m - was forecast.

However, this figure is expected to reduce by the end of the financial year, with the areas reporting a possible overspend being reminded of the importance of achieving a balanced budget by next April.

At present no formal additional spending controls have been put in place, but this will be reviewed in future months if the forecast position does not show improvement.

Priority

The report also shows the four-year Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) funding gap has moved from the £144m previously reported to £135m by 2022/23.

The council says this is primarily a result of savings delivered due to a change in Minimum Revenue Provision policy, an improved council taxbase and a better collection fund position.

And the authority says it has already delivered £200m of savings over the last three years, with a further £130m agreed for delivery over the next four years. In addition, more savings are being sought which, it is claimed should ensure a balanced budget can be set by 2020/21, without the need to rely on reserves.

Councillor Geoff Driver, leader of the county council, said: "Like all councils we are facing significant financial pressures, and we are continuing to work hard to ensure we can achieve a financially sustainable position.

"Our priority remains providing the best service possible to the people of Lancashire, particularly our older residents and children in need of our support and protection, but we do need to cut our cloth appropriately.

"We have been in a fortunate position that we have had a very healthy reserve pot of money to draw upon in recent years. However we cannot continue to rely on our reserves, which while still healthy are dwindling.

"Our aim is to achieve a balanced budget by 2020/21 and a great deal of work is taking place to identify savings across the board.

"There is also careful monitoring of day-to-day spending to help ensure our savings programme remains on track."

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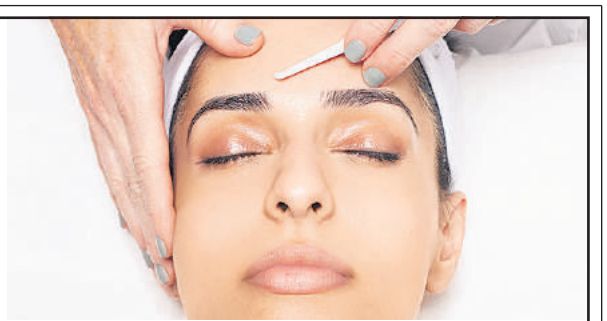

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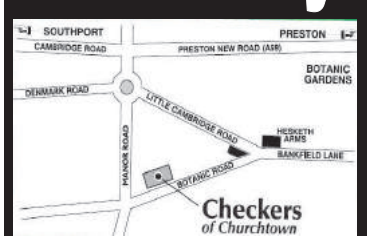

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MP and local campaigners welcome new study aimed at solving flood problems

Report by **Kenny Parker**

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper says she has received confirmation from Lancashire County Council that funding has been secured and consultants appointed to investigate surface water and drainage in Burscough.

The county council, which is the local lead flood authority, has appointed Jacobs, as its framework consultancy, to undertake the study which will consider the catchment and surface water flood risk in the town.

The authority says the study will be co-ordinated with a separate study being undertaken by United Utilities, allowing for consideration of the interaction of the various drainage systems in Burscough more accurately.

Rosie Cooper has welcomed this commitment and says she looks forward to seeing the final report, recommendations and outcomes from it.

The MP said: "Burscough, as with other parts of West Lancashire, has been heavily affected by flooding and drainage issues in recent years which have at times flooded homes and businesses and caused great angst and anxiety to many residents.

"I am pleased that Lancashire County Council, along with United Utilities, have taken this initial step to recognise the issues and investigate the detail.

"Residents will not be assured all is okay until they see the findings of the reports and studies, and the recommended actions being carried out.

Committed

"I have written to both Lancashire County Council and United Utilities to ensure I am kept informed of developments and to get a clear timeline for the work."

The cost of the research is being met by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

It was announced earlier this year that the government department had awarded Lancashire County Council a grant of £98,000, to pay for studies into the causes of floods in Burscough, along with Chorley, Lancaster and Fylde.

Gavin Rattray, secretary of the Burscough Flooding Group which previously carried out an extensive survey into flooding in the village at the request of the local parish council, said: "We have committed to help Jacobs identify the problem areas in Burscough at the request of Lancashire County Council. We will make all the flooding information provided by residents (except names and addresses) available, along with the data obtained about the drainage network capacity problems through Freedom Of Information legislation".

A previous flooding incident in Crabtree Lane, Burscough.

Mr Rattray said that promises made in the 2012 Local Plan to resolve the flooding issues were broken when United Utilities failed to obtain funding in 2015 and the county council failed to improve its drainage systems.

However, he added: "Burscough Flooding Group hopes that the employment of Jacobs to further investigate drainage in Burscough is a route to achieving a resolution of the problems with new infrastructure; and not a way of further delaying a resolution whilst West Lancs Borough Council continue to site developments in Burscough that cause additional flooding."

Civic event to tell story of village blacksmith killed in First World War

ORMSKIRK Civic Hall (The Civic) is set to host an event commemorating 100 years since the end of the First World War to raise funds for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

The event on Friday, November 2 will begin with a talk entitled The Man Who Shod Horses by Martin Jones.

This tells the pre-and post-war family history of John Westhead, who was the Newburgh village blacksmith in 1913. When the Remount Depot opened at Lathom House blacksmiths and farriers (those who make metal plates for horses' feet) were in great demand.

He signed up in 1915 and at the age of 42 went out to France to tend the horses. He was killed in October 1916.

Part of the story is told from original letters and documents now over 100 years old.

Following the talk will be a hot-pot supper and performance of wartime songs by Ormskirk's Pleasure Folk amateur dramatic and musical society, with audience participation invited for the choruses.

Tickets are £10, including refreshments, and are available from The Civic in person or by phoning 01695 580755. All profits and money raised from the sale of poppies will go to the Poppy Appeal.

Bill Snook celebrated his 104th birthday with family and friends at Springfield Court Nursing Home.

Bill can still show some fancy footwork on the dance floor at 104!

KEEN football fan Bill Snook showed some fancy footwork of his own when he took to the floor to celebrate his 104th birthday!

Despite his advanced years, the sprightly centenarian was the life and soul of the party at the Springfield Court Nursing Home in Aughton where he was joined by family and friends to celebrate his milestone.

Liverpool FC fan Bill travelled the world with his career in the army, was involved in the seige of Torbruk and the battle of Monte Cassino in the Second World War and got to meet wartime Prime Minster Winston Churchill, which he says was a memorable occasion.

Liz Wynne, activities co-ordinator at the home in Springfield Road, said: "Bill is a wonderful ballroom dancer and on his birthday he took to the floor and offered his services to teach staff how to dance!"

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Women's charities invited to bid for share of £70k fund

Grants of between £5,000 and £10,000 up for grabs for grassroots groups

Report by **Kenny Parker**

CHARITIES and grassroots organisations in West Lancashire which support women and girls are being invited to bid for a share of a £70,000 grant fund.

That is the total amount secured by the Community Foundation for Lancashire from the £3.4 million awarded to its national body, UK Community Foundations, by the Government's so-called Tampon Tax Fund to provide grants to charities which support women.

Local groups can apply for grants of between £5,000 and £10,000 any time between now and Monday, November 5 when applications will close,

These will be distributed by the Lancashire Women's Fund specifically set up for the purpose by the Community Foundation for Lancashire.

Anyone interested in applying for funding or who feels they are part of an organisation which may benefit from an award under the scheme, can do so at www.lancsfoundation.org.uk/womensfund.

Rae Brooke, chief executive of Community Foundation for Lancashire.

The Tampon Tax Fund was a UK Government response to an EU directive to charge VAT on women's sanitary products with the then Chancellor committing to make £15 million per year available for women's health and support charities whilst those regulations were in force.

A recent study, commissioned by the Community Foundation for Lancashire revealed a number of key issues affecting women and girls in the county, including confidence, aspiration, self-belief and resilience, mental wellbeing, social isolation and domestic violence and abuse.

Community Foundation for Lancashire's chief executive, Rae Brooke, said there was a need to launch a specific fund due to significant cuts in local resources in recent years meaning many women have been left unable to access crucial support. 37% of women's groups recently consulted in Lancashire believe their sustainability in the next three years is questionable.

Ms Brooke said: "We want women to feel safe, supported, empowered and confident when confronted by abuse, discrimination and a lack of opportunities. By highlighting key issues and difficulties facing girls and women in Lancashire we can encourage others to support meeting the need. We want to equip women and girls in the county with adequate resources to allow them to flourish."

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Students unveil their vision for future of Ormskirk town centre

INSPIRED by retail guru Bill Grimsey, a group of students from Edge Hill were set the task of preparing Ormskirk for the 21st century.

Working in small groups, first-year students from the university's Business School visited Ormskirk town centre to observe the current state of the retail and service offer and consider how it may be developed in the future.

To set the scene for the task with background information about the causes and significance of today's high street crisis, Bill Grimsey who has produced two reports on the subject, delivered an introductory lecture to students, along with Edge Hill's professor of marketing, Kim Cassidy.

Students displayed their findings and suggestions on posters which were presented to a panel of experts including Kate Pierce, principal economic regeneration officer for West Lancs Council, Dave Mutch from Ormskirk Community Partnership and Greville Kelly, director of Business Groundwork.

Kate Pierce said: "It was great to be able to collaborate with Edge Hill on this project and hear some really inspirational proposals from the students on how Ormskirk might take on the challenges faced by our high streets today,.

"The standard of the presentations was exceptionally high but the winning team and runners-up all presented really visionary ideas including sophisticated town centre apps, multi-use retail and events offer and sustainable travel options.

Members of the winning Transformationalists team in Ormskirk town centre. Picture by Paul Heyes.

"The next step for the council is to hear more about these ideas from the winning teams, and, with the university, find ways to bring them to life to truly re-imagine Ormskirk."

The winning team, Transformationalists, focussed on integrating society and building a community. To attract consumers they suggested developing an app, offering free wi-fi, and putting on events suitable for all ages.

Professor Kim Cassidy said: "The student response to this task was tremendous and the outputs exceeded my expectations. It was great to get the support of Bill as well as the commitment of members of the council. Both helped to bring the theory to life and enabled students to develop practical solutions to real issues."

The posters will be displayed in Chapel Gallery in Ormskirk for members of the public to view the students' ideas.

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Poppy appeal organiser backs Legion campaign

Call to honour all involved in First World War has special significance for former Mayor, Liz

A FORMER Mayor of West Lancashire whose grandfather was gassed while fighting in the trenches during the First World War has backed a campaign honouring and thanking all those involved in 1914-18 conflict.

To mark the centenary this year of the end of the war, the Royal British Legion is calling on mass involvement from the public to recognise the legacy left to us by the entire First World War generation.

The charity's 'Thank You' campaign honours not only the 1.1 million British and Commonwealth Armed Forces who lost their lives, but also those who played their part on the home front and those who returned to build a better life for the benefit of generations to come.

Ashurst ward Councillor Liz Savage, who is also the Poppy Appeal Organiser for Burscough and Latham, said: "I was delighted to visit the Royal British Legion's stand at the Labour Party conference to hear about their work leading up to the centenary of the end of the First World War.

"To the farmers who gave up their horses for the war effort; to the women who kept our home fires burning; to the children who worked the land and the War Poets whose work has shaped our understanding of conflict; we should all say 'Thank You'

"My own grandfather, James Carey, was mustard gassed in the trenches and suffered from it until the day he died. I am saying 'Thank You' to him and all those who contributed."

Director General of the Royal British Legion, Charles Byrne, explained: "We all have a connection to the First World War and we all have a reason to say 'Thank You' to this special generation.

"Whether your personal 'Thank You' is an event dedicated to those who made a difference in your community, a visit to a place of significance, or a tweet, there's no limit to the ways to take part.

West Lancs Councillor Liz Savage is backing the Royal British Legion's 'Thank You' campaign.

"We are making a plea to every single person across the UK to get involved and take a moment in this very significant year to say 'Thank You'."

For further information and to find out how you can get involved in the 'Thank You' movement, please visit rbl.org.uk/thankyou and share your story on with #ThankYou100.

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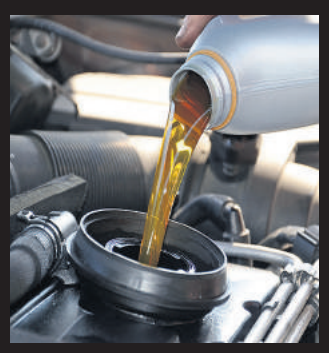

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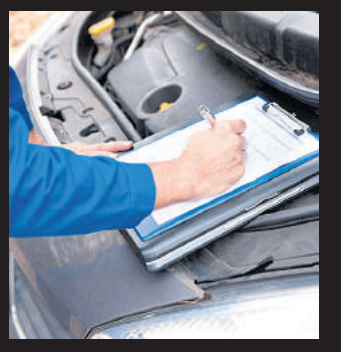

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Children's charity worker steps down after 42 years

A WEST Lancs man who has spent 42 years working with vulnerable children is retiring - but plans to continue working with young people in his retirement!

Paul Wilcox *(pictured)* is stepping down from his role with Barnardo's after 26 years with the children's charity.

Now the 60-year-old from Bickerstaffe is aiming to provide opportunities for young people in the area by developing a cycle charity scheme that will offer apprenticeships by recycling bikes and giving them to people in Africa.

Paul started his career as a residential social worker in Preston at the age of 18, before moving to Leeds where he went on to work with vulnerable families.

He then managed a Youth Justice Team in London for several years, before seeing an advert for Barnardo's to work with vulnerable children in Liverpool.

Since making the move back up north Paul has never looked back and moved up through the charity to become a children's services manager.

And he has spent the last 16 years of his career at Barnardo's as an assistant director, responsible for managing the charity's children's services in Lancashire.

During his time at Barnardo's, Paul has also been involved with numerous high-profile fundraising initiatives, including sponsored bike rides from Anglesey to London and from Lands End to John O'Groats.

He said: "I came into the profession to try to make a difference in children's lives, and seeing young people realise their dreams, have a brighter future and succeed in some way has given me such a huge sense of doing something positive.

"I will truly miss working at Barnardo's as there are some great people doing great work behind the scenes to help children. However, I am also looking forward to being able to travel and see more of the world with my wife, Arlene, and to my new project developing a charity scheme to provide apprenticeships for young people in partnership with the Velo Café in Croston."

Paul also plans to carry on working as a director for Bickerstaffe Lodge, a not-for-profit nursery and to get out riding more with his local cycle club.

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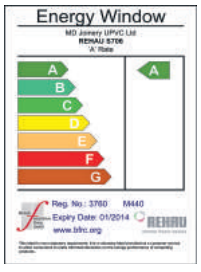

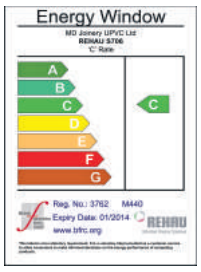

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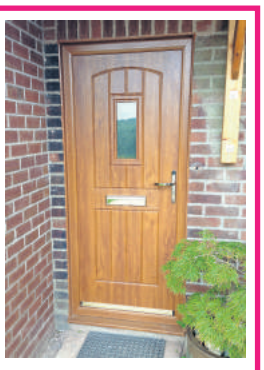

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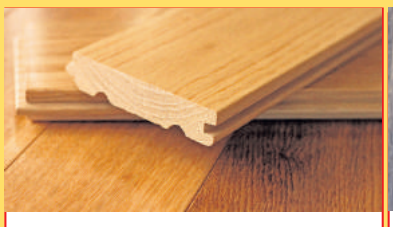

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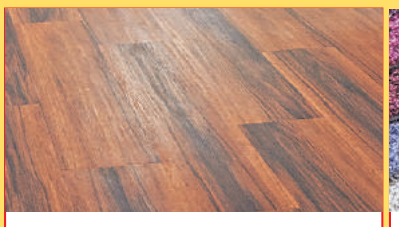

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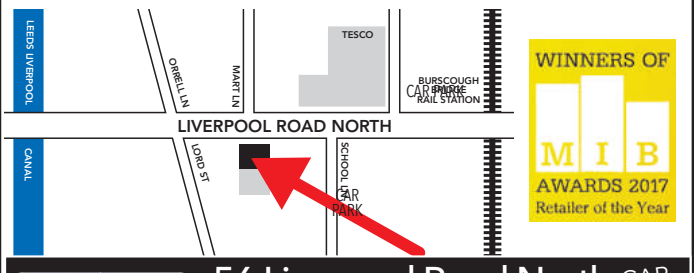

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Liberty Centre awarded £20,000 for project to help reduce reoffending

A WEST Lancashire charity which helps victims of domestic abuse is one of nine organisations across the county chosen to benefit from funding by the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw.

The commissioner has awarded more than £160,000 to projects which will play a "vital role across the county in working to reduce reoffending" - including £20,000 to the Liberty Centre .

Charities, organisations and partners had the opportunity to bid for funding of projects that will work with offenders in their areas and help them integrate back into the community.

Applications were considered with help from the four local Reducing Reoffending Boards covering the north, south, east and west, which include representatives from partners including Lancashire Constabulary, local authorities and the regional Community Rehabilitation Company, to ensure funding is used in a way which best addresses local issues and priorities in their communities.

Projects will be taking place over the next 12 months, with organisations required to evidence the impact that the work they are doing has had, meeting the commissioner's key priorities to tackle crime and reoffending and develop safe and confident communities.

Clive Grunshaw.

This follows the appointment of Jerry Graham, a former senior officer at Lancashire Constabulary and most recently Chief Constable in Cumbria, as independent chair of the local Reducing Reoffending Boards.

Clive Grunshaw said: "It has been really exciting to hear the range of ideas and organisations that came forward during the application process. I'm looking forward to seeing these projects in action and how they make a real difference in our communities.

"Policing alone cannot prevent people reoffending and this builds on the work already being done across the county. I know from seeing programmes that have received funding in the past the difference this work can make and how it can help turn people's lives around."

Vital

Assistant chief constable of Lancashire Constabulary, Jo Edwards, added: "I am absolutely delighted that funding has been provided by the police and crime commissioner to support a number of community-based projects which seek to address and break the cycle of reoffending across a number of our communities here in Lancashire.

"The provision of tailored support and access to services across the breadth of partnerships involved is vital in supporting individuals involved in offending to divert their behaviours. I look forward to these projects making a real difference."

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Pam aims to make a splash again at World Transplant Games

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Pam Lane with her silver medal for the 50m breaststroke at the European Transplant Games. She also won gold in 50m backstroke and bronze in both 50m and 100m freestyle.

A KIDNEY transplant patient from West Lancs is aiming to add to her medal collection after being chosen to represent team GB at the World Transplant Games for the second time.

Swimmer Pam Lane from Rufford has already won medals at previous European and world competitions.

And the 55-year-old is delighted after being chosen to compete for Team GB at the next World Transplant games to be held on 'home' territory at Newcastle and Gateshead in August 2019.

Now there's just the 'small matter' of raising £1,250 to fund her expenses for the competition, including kit, accommodation, training, travel and insurance

Pam was given a kidney transplant six years ago after being on dialysis three times per week for six years due to polycystic kidney disease.

Before the operation she was barely able to swim more than a few lengths without becoming tired.

Since the transplant, however, she has competed in both the British Transplant Games and the European Transplant and Dialysis Sports Championships on two occasions and also competed at the last world games in Malaga in 2017.

The World Transplant Games is held every two years, and is supported by the International Olympic Committee. It represents the largest organ donor awareness event in the world, featuring a week of 17 sporting events involving more than 1,000 athletes from 70 countries

Mum-of-two Pam, who trains with the Leyland Barracudas team, is ecstatic to be chosen to join Team GB again. Every member of the team has survived either a heart, lung, kidney, pancreas, liver, small bowel or bone marrow transplant.

She said: "I am absolutely delighted to have been chosen again especially as we are the host nation this time.

"My hope is that the public will become more aware of the enormous difference that organ donation has made to every transplant recipient. All of us are so grateful to our donors and their families.."

If you would like to donate to Pam's fundraising effort go to the website www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pamelalane.

Any surplus funds raised will go to the Transplant Sport UK Management Team (including physios and coaches) who give up their time to support the competitors.

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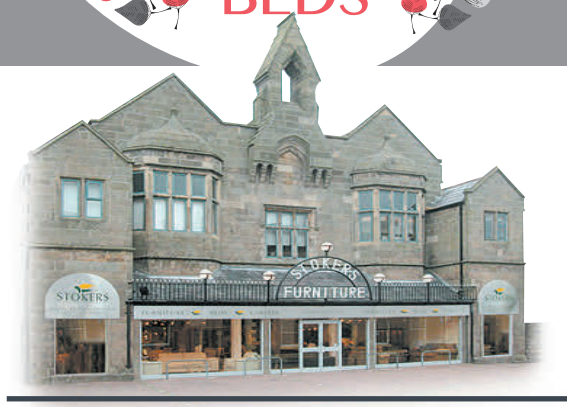

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Local anti-fracking group undeterred by jail sentences for Preston three

CAMPAIGNERS protesting against plans to frack for shale gas in West Lancashire say they are undeterred after three men who staged a protest at energy company Cuadrilla's site in Preston were jailed last week.

In what is believed to be the first time that anti-fracking protesters have been handed custodial sentences, two of the men received prison terms of 16 months and the third one of 15 months after being found guilty of causing a public nuisance following a trial at Preston Crown Court.

A fourth man who had pleaded guilty to the charge was given a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months.

The court heard that they had brought the A583, the main road from Blackpool to Preston, to a standstill after climbing on to lorries heading for Cuadrilla's shale gas site at Preston New Road.

Campaigners in West Lancs have expressed shock at the sentences but have vowed to continue with their protest.

A spokesperson for Moss Alliance, which is campaigning against plans by Aurora Energy Resources to frack at Altcar Moss, said: "These three young professionals followed their consciences and acted against what they believe to be wrong and are now serving a custodial sentence for 'public nuisance', a little used criminal offence. We are shocked and saddened at the Draconian sentences handed down for a peaceful, non-violent protest.

"The truth is that by doing so the courts effectively lend support for the fracking industry, to which the community has said 'no!'

"This industry is on the wrong side of history but corporate profit and greed is being put before the rights and the will of communities and local authorities. Opposition will not go away despite such disproportionate sentencing by the courts.

The three men jailed for their fracking protest pictured with supporters outside Preston Crown Court before their sentencing.
Photo by Peter Yanowski.

"In addition, the courts are also effectively rubber-stamping industry injunctions stifling protest and the ultimate aim is for protesters only to be able to wave a token banner.

"Nevertheless, the strength of feeling against imposition of fracking on unwilling communities has gained and is gaining momentum as applications are submitted. Aurora will be submitting their application to explore and frack at Altcar Moss in the very near future.

"It is a very sad day for the young men, their families and the anti-fracking movement but we, and all communities under threat, are undeterred in our intention to oppose fracking by raising awareness and working peacefully and non-violently by all means available to us."

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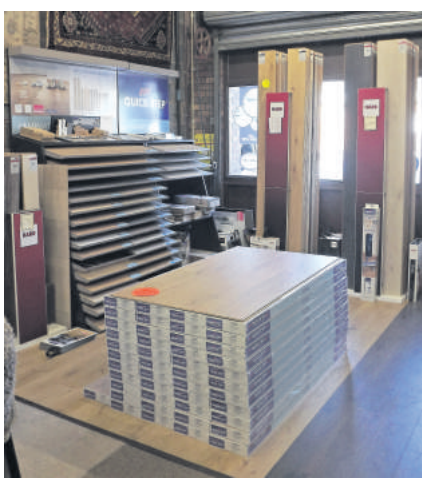

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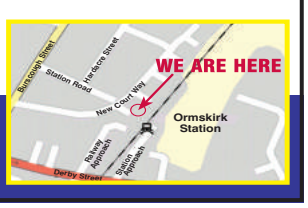

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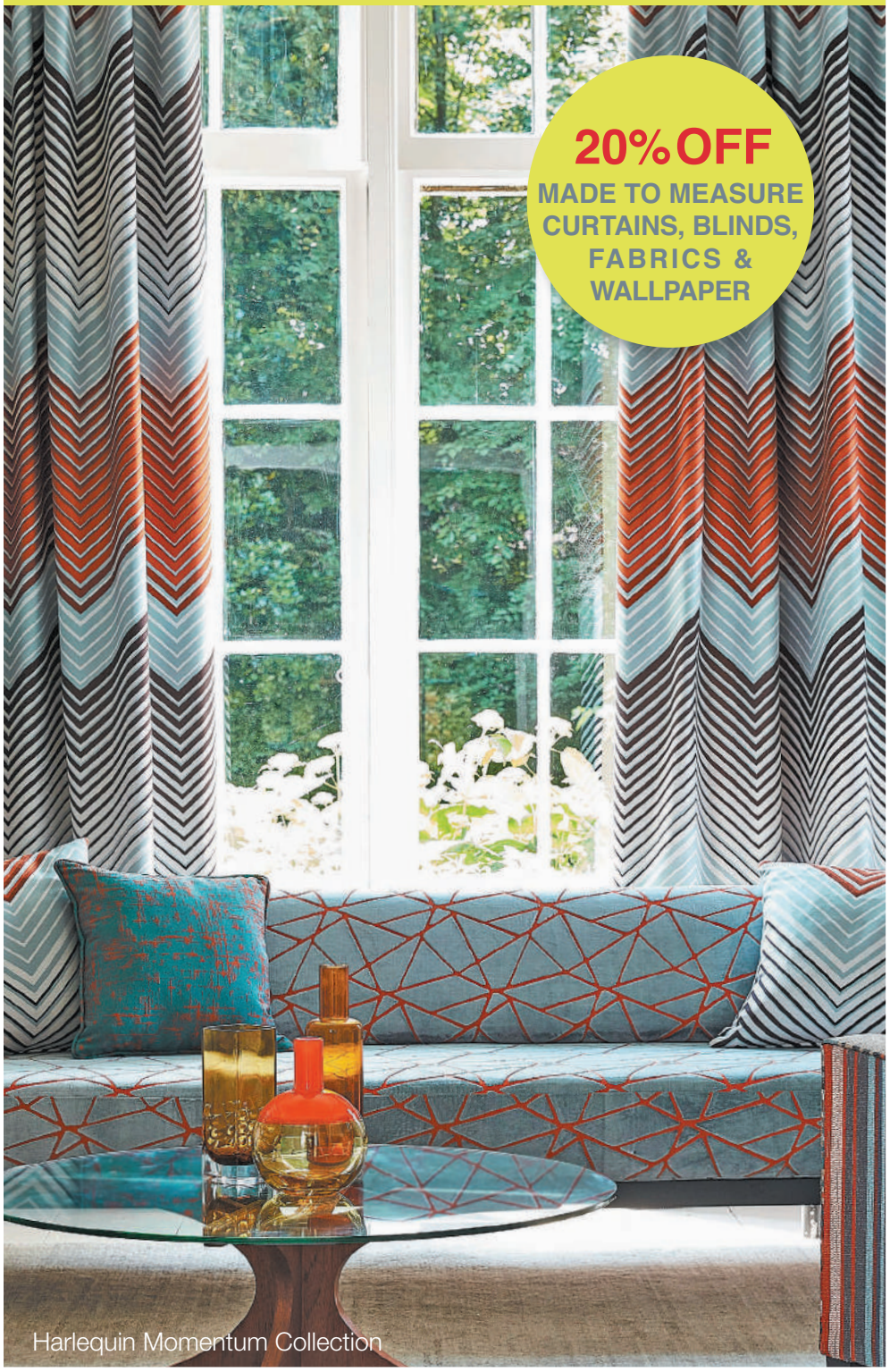

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Lobbyists' bombshell blueprint for the introduction of US-style healthcare could change our beloved NHS forever

RE: Chris Carr's letter (Champion, September 26) which primarily dealt with a Virgin Care vehicle blocking the pedestrian entrance to the walk-in centre.

However, he also writes (briefly) about sneaking privatisation of Ormskirk Hospital and it is this point I wish to expand on.

In the same issue of Champion is an appeal from Dr Amanda Doyle for members of the public to have their say on the future of NHS services. I am sure this is well intended but make no mistake it will not prevent the Conservatives from privatising our NHS.

The Government say that they will spend £20.5 billion over the next five years on the NHS. Don't be fooled. The reality is that an influential group of trade lobbyists have just released a bombshell blueprint for a future UK-US trade deal - and it's shocking.

They want to allow American healthcare companies to make money off patients when we're sick, vulnerable and in need of care.

This is a stark warning and it's clear the only thing coming between an NHS that's there for all of us and opening the door to American companies competing with our NHS, is the people of Britain.

In their report, the lobbyists recognise their ideas are controversial and they're right.

Our NHS was founded on the idea of fairness. That we all deserve safe healthcare, no matter who we are, where we're from or how much money we make. It means that every single one of us knows that whether our child is sick with fever, a relative needs a hip operation, or we need to see a doctor - we can get the care we need. And we don't need to worry about whether we can afford it.

But the lobbyists' blueprint could mean the introduction of American-style healthcare to the UK; paying thousands for surgery; hiked-up prescription prices; even being charged for an ambulance journey. It could pave the way for changes to what we know and love about our NHS forever.

Joe Welsh, by email.

No details of roads, increased demands for water and drainage, or flood defences in all debates on Local Plan

FOLLOWING the extensive coverage in the Champion (September 19) about the Local Plan and development for West Lancashire above, we note that nothing was said by Lancashire County Council or councillors about who and how the county council will be able to adopt and maintain all the new roads shown on the plan as they are patently unable to maintain the existing roads.

There was no comment from United Utilities as to how they plan to accommodate the increased demand for drinking water or where and how the new development will deal with the increase in the foul drainage for the new developments.

Local flooding has been an ongoing issue for some areas in West Lancashire and no mention of any provisions for future flood defences have been mentioned.

Is it possible to find someone with some authority and common sense to explain to your readers in honest terms how those responsible for these issues are going to deal with them and who is going to pay for them?

A. D., Aughton,
details supplied.

PICTURE of the week

Multi-coloured pyrotechnic displays cascade over Southport's Victoria Park at last weekend's British Musical Fireworks Championship. Picture by Martyn Snape.

How much more evidence do they need before essential safety changes are made on County Road?

WITH reference to last week's front page article (Ormskirk Champion, September 26) where Councillor Nikki Hennessy suggests that residents email their concerns to her, I can't help but wonder what would be the use?

How much more evidence does the Speed Tasking Group need to realise that significant safety changes are essential for the two dangerous junctions already identified on County Road?

The sheer number of (recorded) crashes involving injury and death should be enough to warrant cameras without the added support of recent petitions that, by their very nature, reflect 'residents' concerns'!

I apologise for sounding cynical, but is there a chart within council chambers that records all of the serious incidents that have occurred and only when a certain number is reached then something effective will actually be implemented?

In the meantime, the residents will continue to be paid lip service by repeatedly being fobbed off with excuses of 'reliability, accurate functioning and trials...blah, blah, blah.'

As for the invite for an officer from LCC's speed management team to attend the next Police and Communities Together (P.A.C.T.) meeting, I hope he/she will be made aware of just how poorly attended they usually are.

The bulk of attendees are made up of the councillors sitting at the 'top table'!

Kate Mitchell, by email.

Send us your views

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Powers-that-be need to address this dangerous and illegal pavement parking before there's a major incident

I AM not highlighting this to 'have a go at students' - I do have both positive and negative views on that subject, but this is purely about the lack of action from the hierarchy at Edge Hill University.

Yesterday I drove into Ormskirk via Scarth Hill Lane which is jam-packed with parked vehicles on the pavement, embankment - in fact anywhere there was a space there was a car!

I turned right onto St Helens Road to find parked vehicles, mainly on the righthand side (university side) but in some places on both sides of a very busy A road.

They were parked completely on the pavement making pedestrian access impossible and stretched all the way down, bumper-to-boot to the junction with Small Lane.

I observed someone trying to exit their driveway on to St Helens Road who could not see or gauge traffic due to the sheer volume of parked vehicles.

I know Edge Hill have created 'extra' parking on the field adjacent to Scarth Hill Lane but either they are not providing enough space or are charging to park resulting in people choosing to illegally park.

The powers-that-be at Edge Hill need to address this urgently, before there is a major incident - it's dangerous and illegal to park on the pavement.

Why do they not create more car-parking on campus? Could it be that the land is more profitable for accommodation?

And where are the traffic wardens? There is a full day's work on St Helens Road if they want it! Then perhaps Ormskirk residents won't get a fine for going five minutes over in Moorgate car park!

M. O., by email.

Pound still not back at pre-Referendum level - as a result ofBrexit

DR Stanton's letter on Brexit (Champion, September 19) claims that 'the value of the pound has been rising for several weeks'.

This is correct provided you are buying Turkish Lira or South African Rand, but over the past year the pound has held steady at about Euro 1.12.

Significantly it has not recovered to the pre-Referendum level of about Euro 1.30 - a fall in value that can be attributed to Brexit.

(Dr) Murray Steele,
Ormskirk.

Smokers urged to sign up for the Stoptober challenge

Quit Squad ready to offer support in battle to kick the tobacco habit

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE Care Trust's Quit Squad are encouraging people who smoke to commit to the 28-day Stoptober challenge to help them give up using tobacco products rather than trying to go 'cold turkey'.

Quitting smoking is one of the best things people can do for their health but many smokers who want to quit rely on willpower alone, which the Quit Squad says is the least effective way to stop.

And advisors at the service, which is funded by Lancashire County Council, want local smokers to boost their chance of success by getting face-to-face support and the most appropriate treatments.

Gareth Beck from Lancashire Care Trust's Quit Squad

Healthier

Smokers in Lancashire who are thinking of taking up the Stoptober challenge this year can make an appointment to see a Quit Squad adviser to plan their progress. Research shows that they are four times more likely to stop with specialist help than without.

Gareth Beck from the Quit Squad said: "As a service we want to help as many people as possible stop smoking for good.

"Quit Squad are asking people, how will you quit this Stoptober? Evidence shows that you are five times more likely to quit if you complete the Stoptober challenge and can feel happier and more relaxed in the long term after stopping.

"Smoking is one of the biggest causes of illness and preventable death, accounting for 80,000 deaths in England a year, which is why it's so important to encourage and support those who want to make a change and lead a healthier life."

The benefits to quitting are numerous, from saving money to a better sense of smell and taste, breathing easier and protecting your family from the dangers of second-hand smoke.

For more information and to join the biggest stop smoking challenge of its kind, search 'Stoptober' online and sign up. For local support contact the Quit Squad, telephone (Freephone) 0800 328 6297, or visit www.quit-squad.nhs.uk.

Got a story? Ring the Champion News Desk on 01704 392400

Invitation to join ramble for Children In Need

STAFF at a West Lancs pub are inviting members of the public to join them for a sponsored walk on Saturday, October 6 in aid of Children In Need as part of a national fundraising effort by the BBC's *Countryfile* programme.

The Red Lion Hotel on Ash Brow, Newburgh has organised the 'easy' five-mile walk around Newburgh, Parbold and Dalton, starting and finishing at the pub. Ramblers should meet at 10.30am for refreshments ahead of an 11am start.

Those taking part are requested to either make a donation at the start of the walk, or raise sponsorship. Sponsorship forms can be downloaded from website www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk.

The Newburgh ramble will be one of many taking place around the UK over the weekend with some of the walks led by Countryfile presenters.

Assistant manger at the Red Lion, Nichola Scott, said: "We hope that this will bring the community together and raise money for a good cause. People can just turn up and donate before they leave for the walk. Even if it's just a pound, every little bit helps."

The Red Lion at Newburgh is holding a five-mile walk as part of the BBC's Countryfile Ramble in aid of Children In Need.

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Astrid,8, to guest at soul star's concert

A TALENTED young pupil at a West Lancs primary school is set to be the guest performer at a concert by Alexander O'Neal.

Eighty-year-old Astrid Smith, who attends St Mark's Primary School in Scarisbrick , says it's a "dream come true" to sing on the same stage as such a distinguished musician.

US soul and R&B artist, O'Neal's music career spans more than 40 years with 10 studio albums released during this time.

Astrid will take to the stage before O'Neal is introduced and perform three songs at the event at Eventim Olympia in Liverpool on Saturday, December 8.

Before that, Astrid, who is also a pupil at Allstars Academy in Southport and the Elliot Clarke Dance Academy in Liverpool, has also been invited to support Bootle singer George Gallagher, when he performs at Grand Central Hall, in Liverpool, on November 9.

Astrid Smith

Hospital to re-think policy on public use of hydrotherapy pool

CAMPAIGNERS bidding to overturn a decision by Southport Hospital to stop public access to a hydrotherapy pool and gym have been given renewed hope after bosses agreed to 'review the situation'.

Nearly 700 people have signed a petition against the move, but following a meeting between users of the pool and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, the trust's chief executive, Silas Nicholls, has now agreed to reconsider.

The trust had planned to end public use of the gym facility and hydrotherapy pool at the North West Regional Spinal Injuries Centre by the end of November. But residents argued that many locals who suffer from particular health conditions benefit from exercising in the pool because it only has a depth of 3ft to 5ft and is kept at a constant temperature. Others say the gym helps people who have cardiovascular problems.

Among those who are hoping the trust will have a change of heart are Rick and Carol Halsall. Carol has multiple sclerosis and believes that since first using the pool in February, it has been a "life-changing experience" as it helps her mobility and hand co-ordination.

They are being supported in their campaign by Labour party activist and West Lancs councillor, Liz Savage, who attended the recent meeting with the hospital's CEO.

Rick said: "Carol desperately needs access to the unique facilities that the hospital pool offers. The hospital has done the right thing and we now look forward to working with them on finalising the details. I'd ask people to keep signing the petition though until we have a firm solution - it all helps."

Rick and Carol Halsall with Councilor Liz Savage.

Other residents have also contacted the Champion over their concerns, including Jason Bedwell, who claimed he has been using the pool for years to help with his pain management. He said: "If it wasn't for using the pool on Wednesday evenings and Sundays I doubt I would still be fit enough to continue to work and provide for my family. A hydro-pool facility such as this should be for use by as many people as possible."

Another resident who contacted the Champion is 50-year-old Pamela Wright, who has osteoarthritis, a condition that causes the joints to become painful and stiff. She said: "If I didn't have access to this pool I would end up in a wheelchair and there are so many others who need this facility. This can't be lost for the community - it's vital for us."

Speaking after the meeting, Silas Nicholls said: "I have listened to the concerns of the current pool users and have agreed to review the situation. I will be in touch with the concerned group and Councillor Savage, with a decision, as soon as possible."

Hospital bosses say the income from providing public access for the pool has, for some time, not covered the cost of the service at a time when the trust faces an ongoing financial challenge. They added that spinally injured service users in the community, who remain lifelong patients of the centre, will continue to have full use.

Cllr. Savage said: "Silas Nicholls freely admitted that communication with residents could have been better on this and very much wanted to find a resolution that works both for both the campaigners and the hospital. There are still some areas that need to be addressed and solutions found but he seems confident that access will be retained for those with a need for it. I'm glad he has listened and is so willing to act on the concerns we raised."

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Exhibition examines impact of First World War on women's lives

Report by **Henry James**

THE impact of the First World War on women's lives is the subject of a poignant new Chapel Gallery exhibition and project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the 1914-18 war.

Opening the Gates, which also marks 100 years of women having the vote, will focus on stories and characters with strong links to West Lancashire and is planned to run from Saturday, October 6 until January 19 next year.

Set against the backdrop of the First World War, it will show how during the war years ordinary women were thrust into occupations previously only occupied by men and how, ultimately this, combined with suffrage, led to those women gaining the vote.

***Opening the Gates* is coming to the Chapel Gallery commemorating 100 years of women having the vote and the end of the First World War.**

The project aims to illuminate local heritage through archive photographs, letters, newspapers and objects. And it is hoped it will bring alive the heritage of local women who had active roles during the First World War, such as those who served abroad as nursing and army auxiliaries, demonstrating their contribution to the war effort, and their bravery.

Archive films from the Imperial War Museum in London will also be shown as part of the exhibition and heritage talks take place on October 12, November 9, November 23 and January 8.

Families with connection to the First World War are welcome to go along at any time to help with research, or join guided tours on October 13 and November 3. To book places call 01695 571328 or email chapel.gallery@westlancs.gov.uk.

West Lancs Council, which runs the gallery in St Helens Road, Ormskirk, has secured £10,000 from Heritage Lottery to develop the exhibition in partnership with Edge Hill University and Ormskirk and District Family History Society. The society's archive material of photographs, letters, local newspapers and other documents will be used in the exhibition.

In partnership with the university's creative writing department, the gallery will aim to explore the impact of this period of history on women's lives today by commissioning writers to create work that explores the notion, 'for better or worse'.

This will examine the impact the roles West Lancashire women took on during the First World War had on their 21st century counterparts 100 years later.

Local schools can also participate in free tours and education workshops and can book by calling 01695 571328 or by email to chapel.gallery@westlancs.gov.uk.

For more details visit the council website www.westlancs.gov.uk/ww1.

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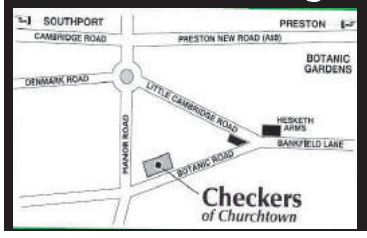

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Chance to comment on county council's minerals and waste sites planning policy

LANCASHIRE County Council has begun a public consultation seeking residents' views on future planning policy for extracting minerals and managing waste in the county.

The county council is responsible for deciding planning applications for minerals and waste sites and the authority's new Local Plan sets out priorities and policies in this area.

The current plan runs until 2021 and the updated version aims to ensure it remains relevant until 2032.

People can find out more and put forward their views on the consultation section of the council's website.

County Councillor Michael Green, Lancashire's cabinet member for economic development, environment, and planning, said: "Extraction of minerals for industry and management of waste affects everyone and the way these things are done in future will have a big impact on people's lives, our landscape, and economy.

County Councillor Michael Green.

"Good planning can help to minimise any conflicts and ensure that these issues are managed in a way that has a positive impact.

Key issues

"The Local Plan sets out the key issues affecting mineral deposits and waste sites in Lancashire so that everyone can see the background against which future planning applications will be decided."

You can see the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and respond to the consultation by searching current consultations at www.lancashire.gov.uk.

The consultation will close on Wednesday, November 28.

Music studio to stage guitar exhibition

A WEST Lancs-based music store and studio is set to host its first guitar show.

The Liverpool Guitar Experience has been organised by Sound Affects of New Court Way, Ormsirk and will feature guest performances from former Simply Red and Stone Roses guitarist Aziz Ibrahim and award-winning classical guitarist Billy Watman at the Park Hotel, Netherton, on Sunday, October 14.

String manufacturers D'Addario will also be offering free re-strings and there will be talks and demonstrations through the day.

Advanced booking is essential and tickets, priced £5, are available from www.soundaffects.com.

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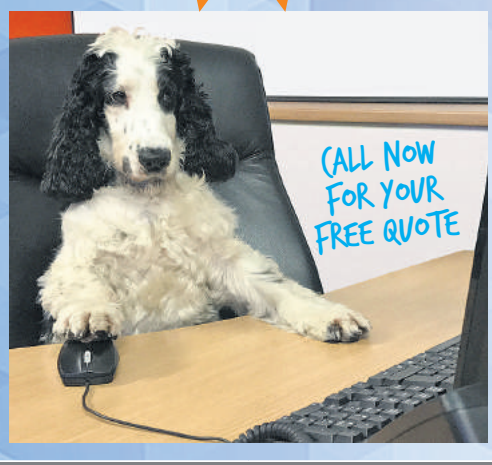

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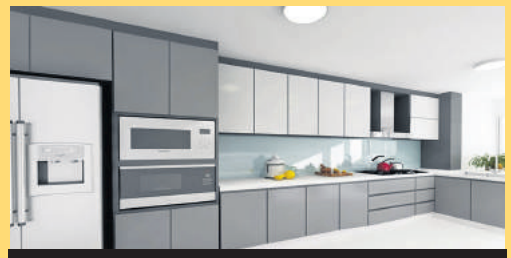

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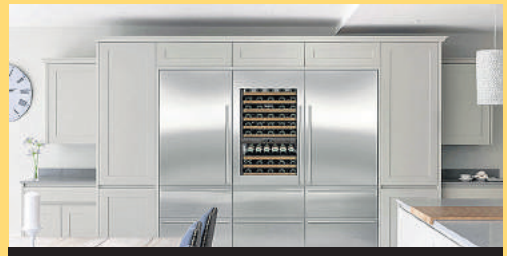

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Parish pals' sponsored walk in aid of church maintenance

TWO parishioners organised a sponsored five-mile walk from Crossens to Banks and back to raise more than £280 for their church.

June Slater and her friend Stephen Jenkinson led a party from their congregation at St John's Church in Crossens on the walk taking the coastal route along the bank starting from the pumping station at Crossens.

After taking a well-earned break for a pub lunch in Banks they returned via a shorter route back, raising a total of £283.50 to be used towards ongoing church maintenance.

June said: "We are a very friendly bunch and have many open days and social events throughout the year - anyone wishing to join us is very welcome.

"Sunday service with communion commences at 10am and there is also a Communion Service each Wednesday also at 10am with hot drinks and biscuits after each of the services."

The parishioner pals pictured on their on their sponsored walk.

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6.30pm
Michelle: 07931 125172

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Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
5pm & 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club,
Blaguegate Lane
5pm & 7pm
Paula: 07484 263698

TUESDAY
CHESHIRE LINES
Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
5pm & 7pm
Sheila: 07827 335824

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club,
Blaguegate Lane
9am & 11am
Paula: 07484 263698

WEDNESDAY
MELLING
Melling Residents Community Association
(Ratepayers Club)
Melling
7.30pm
Katie: 07469 193445

CHESHIRE LINES
Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
9.30am
Sheila: 07827 335824

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club,
Green Lane
9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club,
Green Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
4.30 & 6.30pm
Emma: 07414 223 617

UP HOLLAND
UpHolland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
UpHolland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

BURSCOUGH
Burscough Cricket Club
School Lane
3.30pm, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Kathy: 07815 199346

THURSDAY
AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall,
Winifred Lane
8.00am & 10.00am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut
(behind Christ Church), Long Ln
5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
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Sue: 07957 531346

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre,
Birleywood
4.30pm & 6.30pm
Sarah: 07792 146342

FRIDAY
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New Pavilion
Ormskirk Cricket Club
Altys Lane
9am
Zoe: 01695 580966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
Sefton Lane
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9:30am & 11:30am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY
KIRKBY
St. Martins Church
Peatwood Avenue
7.30, 9.30 & 11.30am
Emma: 07414 223617

OLD SKELMERSDALE
Greenhill Community Room
Beech Close
(Off Lancaster Cres)
8am & 10am
Sarah: 07969 395302

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club
Green Lane
7.30am & 9.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School,
Aughton Street, Ormskirk
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Date set for next public meeting of CCG's Primary Care Committee

NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will be holding their next Primary Care Commissioning Committee meeting in public on Tuesday, October 9 from 1.30 to 3pm in Ormskirk.

The meeting will be held in the Boardroom of the CCG offices in Hilldale on the Ormskirk Hospital site.

For instructions on how to find the office, contact the CCG on 01695 588 000. The agenda for the meeting will be made available on the CCG's website a week before the meeting.

Mike Maguire, chief officer at NHS West Lancashire CCG and chair of the new primary care committee.

The local health commissioners have responsibility of commissioning primary care services locally in West Lancashire and lead on decisions of how funding is allocated.

To avoid conflict of interest, the committee does not offer any local GPs voting rights. The committee meetings take place in public, so anyone is welcome to observe.

Mike Maguire, chief officer at NHS West Lancashire CCG and chair of the new primary care committee, said: "As a group of local commissioners and clinicians, we understand what issues face our local communities, and importantly what needs our local people have.

"These new committee meetings are held in public, so anyone can observe them, which further reflects our commitment to be transparent about our plans and decisions."

Ukulele band to entertain visitors at care home open day

ENTERTAINMENT and refreshments will be on the menu at a care home open day.

Sutton Grange in Banks will be opening their doors to the local community on Saturday, October 20 from 1 to 5pm.

Guests will be able to enjoy tea, coffee and cakes and take a tour of the home in Greaves Hall Avenue before musical entertainment provdied by Jimmy and the Riverside Ukelele players.

Home general manager, Bennet Mott, says: "We're excited about welcoming new visitors and existing friends of the home to our open day for what will be both a fun and relaxing event.

"It's a great time to visit the home and ask questions, but also just to enjoy some delightful entertainment in a homely and friendly setting."

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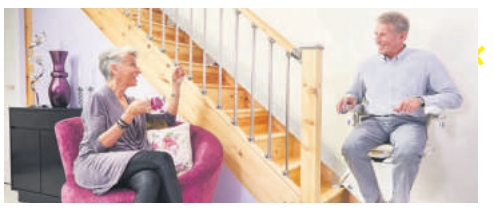

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RSPB in call for tightening of law to protect birds of prey

Charity recorded 68 confirmed incidents of illegal persecution of raptors in county last year

Report by **Kenny Parker**

BIRDS of prey continue to be at risk from illegal persecution - including in West Lancashire - according to a report by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Birdcrime 2017, compiled by the charity, has revealed a minimum of 68 confirmed incidents of detected illegal bird of prey persecution in 2017, including two cases in Lancashire.

It recorded 48 shootings, nine poisonings, three trappings, four cases of nest destruction and four other incidents of illegal persecution against raptors.

The incidents in Lancashire were the shooting of peregrine falcon and the shooting of a marsh harrier, the latter occurring in West Lancs.

The shooting of a marsh harrier in West Lancashire was among incidents recorded by RSPB last year prompting a call for a tightening of the law to protect birds of prey from persecution.

Heritage

Though the figures are a drop from 2016, when there were 81 confirmed incidents, evidence suggests these are just the tip of the iceberg with many illegal killings going undetected or unreported.

RSPB conservation director, Martin Harper, said: "Birds of prey are part of our heritage and inspire us. We should all be able to enjoy seeing these magnificent birds.

"However, illegal activity continues to put species at risk. There are laws in place to protect these birds but they are clearly not being respected or adequately enforced. We need governments across the UK to do more to tackle illegal killing to protect our raptors for us and for future generations to enjoy."

Previous research has shown that illegal killing of birds of prey is associated with land managed for intensive driven grouse shooting. Grouse stocks are protected from birds of prey.

The RSPB is calling for a system of licensing for driven grouse shooting, to ensure land is managed legally and sustainably, including the option of restricting or removing a licence in response to the most serious offences, for example where staff on an estate have been convicted of illegally killing birds of prey.

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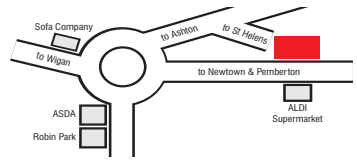

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Something for everyone at village show...

VARIETY was certainly the order of the day for visitors to the annual Hesketh Bank Village Show staged at All Saints Church Hall in Station Road.

The family-friendly event featured lunches, afternoon teas, children's games, ice cream stall, bouncy castle and an auction.

And for the more competitive there was a chance to test their skills in a range of competitions including plants, vegetables, fruits, flowers, floral arrangements, arts, crafts, children's arts contest and home produce (eggs, bread, cakes, jams, chutney and piccalilli).

Winners in the Hesketh Bank Village Show's children's art competition - Lily, Charlie and Sophie

It's nice to recall 'Olden Days' as 'Golden Days' - even if the memories are a touch flawed!

JUST occasionally something gets me really thinking. And one such something has occurred in recent weeks - Ian Hislop's rather excellent *Olden Days* three-part serial on BBC2.

Though I often enjoy his dry sense of humour, I do think that Mr Hislop has, from time to time, a rather inflated sense of himself and although this criticism held true from time to time in this programme, in the main it was a fascinating insight to the workings of the British psyche.

His basic premise was that we have for many years retreated into an often idealised and sometimes indeed totally fantasied version of our history as a way of escaping the unpleasant facts of the present.

From a totally fictional King Arthur with his knights, round table and magicians, to very much rose-tinted versions of our pastoral past, we love to hark back to different times and situations in this green and pleasant land of ours.

And I don't know about you, but in truth I do these days often hark back to past times - though in my case based more in the early years of my own life, the late 1940s to early 1960s - with sometimes excursions back to what I perceive the 1930s were like for good measure. As Ian Hislop suggested, I find some sort of peace back in what I suppose I tend to think of as 'The Good Old Days'.

Yes, if I am really honest with myself I do realise that my memories of a golden past era are probably flawed. I mean, long ago I realised that when you look at some old photos of, say, a village taken around 1900 or so, the cottages, walls and gates look far more run-down then than they do if the corresponding buildings survive today!

But yet, I honestly do think many things (and even attitudes) were probably better in my youth than now.

For example, not far from where I live, is the tiny village of Sefton (it still is tiny, though the building of several very attractive homes has probably doubled its population). When I was a teenager, probably the early 1960s, it was home to a tiny shop near to the church. I'm not sure what this little emporium sold, though I know it included sweets. But so far as I and my school friends were concerned, its great attraction was that it sold lemonade and paper packets of five Woodbine cigarettes.

Obviously today this would be a bad thing - but not to us lads at the time it wasn't!

Changes

However, it's not the loss of this outlet for five ciggies that I mourn, it's that I cannot imagine a shop such as that existing anywhere in the UK today. Come to think, I'd be interested to know how anybody made a living out of it even then. Perhaps the shop was just a sideline for some family to make a few extra shillings?

In truth though, as I've mentioned before, I do very much regret the changing face of out villages. I notice it most on my holiday trips to Norfolk, perhaps because even in the relatively short intervals between my visits there, sometimes quite large changes have taken place.

Local pubs close all the time, rural Post Offices ditto, bus services which used to link rural areas with larger towns are now often only a couple of days a week rather than several times a day, railway lines have disappeared, or in some cases converted into roads carrying the ever-increasing car traffic which makes country walks (or horse rides) a kind of safety lottery.

So I know just where Ian Hislop was coming from. It is somehow reassuring to be able to amble down a country footpath on a sunlit, balmy afternoon and see nothing but green fields, trees and the occasional far-off cottage. And to hear birds, insects and even the wind, rather than the drone of traffic.

Yes, you can imagine a long-lost past; a slower-paced past; a past where old men smoking pipes lounge in the sun outside a country inn.

And what of it if most of this is indeed fantasy? It surely can't be such a bad thing to escape of the world of i-pods, 24-hour communications and personal banking?

I wonder where all the Mr Mainwarings work now? Only a few years ago you could go to see your bank manager, now just try arguing with a computer.

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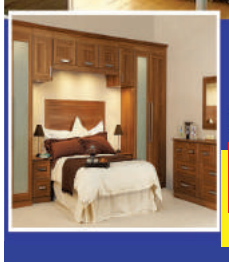

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Child arrests in Lancashire down by 81% in seven years

Report by **Kenny Parker**

ARRESTS of children by Lancashire Police have been reduced by 81% in the last seven years, figures published by the Howard League for Penal Reform have revealed.

Research by the charity found that the force made 1,893 arrests of children aged 17 and under last year, down from 9,779 in 2010. The figure for 2016 was 2,775

The statistics, compiled from responses to Freedom of Information requests, show the continued success of a major Howard League programme, which involves working with police forces to keep as many boys and girls as possible out of the criminal justice system.

The total number of arrests has been reduced every year since the campaign began in 2010.

The charity's research briefing, *Child Arrests In England And Wales 2017*, explores some of the changes that police forces have made to reduce arrest numbers, while also shining new light on areas where further progress can be achieved.

In particular, it identifies the criminalisation of children in residential care and those who are being exploited by county lines gangs, and the disproportionate levels of criminalisation of children from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds as key areas that all forces should be aware of and actively seek to address.

Frances Crook, chief executive of the Howard League, said: "We have come a long way, but there is still more work to do. The Howard League has launched a programme to end the criminalisation of children in residential care, and our research also highlights the need for better understanding of child criminal exploitation. Children who have been trafficked to commit crime should be seen as victims first and foremost."

Lancashire Constabulary said it welcomed the figures and has been working hard to reduce the number of juveniles who go through custody.

Howard League chief executive Frances Crook.

Library to host a week of events for children and parents

PARBOLD library is hosting events for adults and children.

On Wednesday, October 10, between 9.30am and 12.30pm, there will be a taster session, Fun with Phonics, for parents and carers only. This will provide an opportunity to explore how children in the Early Years Foundation Stage and reception year are taught to read, spell and write using phonics.

Then on Thursday October 11 between 2 and 4pm, a Relax and De-stress class will show how relaxation exercises and de-stressing techniques can benefit your health and wellbeing.

Both sessions are provided by Lancashire Adult Learning.

Meanwhile, also on Thursday, October 11 between 5 and 6pm, there will be Trailblazers, for childen in Years 3 to 6 who love reading and talking about books featuring games, quizzes and other activities

And rounding the week off will be a performance by community singing group, Parbold Sing4Fun on Saturday, October 13 between 10.30 and 11.30am.

County police join operation tackling sexual exploitation

LANCASHIRE Police joined other forces in a week-long operation aimed at tackling sexual exploitation.

Operation Aident is a joint campaign between police, the National Crime Agency and law enforcement agencies to understand the threat modern slavery and human trafficking poses.

Detective Sergeant Abi Finch-Hall, of Lancashire Police's Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery team, said: "Some adult sex websites are used by sex workers to advertise their services online. The highest proportion of advertisements relates to women.

"Often rented properties or hotel rooms are used on a short-term basis as a place to sell sex, hence the term 'pop-up brothel'. Some people who advertise in this way may be victims of sexual exploitation, a form of modern slavery, in which they are controlled by their exploiter and forced to in to prostitution with no freedom of choice.

"We want to ensure the safety and wellbeing of potential victims and will be targeting addresses throughout Lancashire to achieve this."

Police are also encouraging victims of modern slavery and human trafficking to come forward.

DS Finch-Hall added: "As a victim you have rights and help and advice is out there. Help can be in the form of safe temporary accommodation, medical treatment or a translator to help you to communicate. You can also be provided with some legal advice.

"There are a number of ways you can contact someone for help. You don't have to speak directly to the police there are charities that can help you. You can also ring some services anonymously; you do not have to give your name or go to court or give a statement."

For advice and support for victims and those with suspicions, call the modern slavery helpline on 08000 121 700 or visit lancashire.police.uk/modernslavery.

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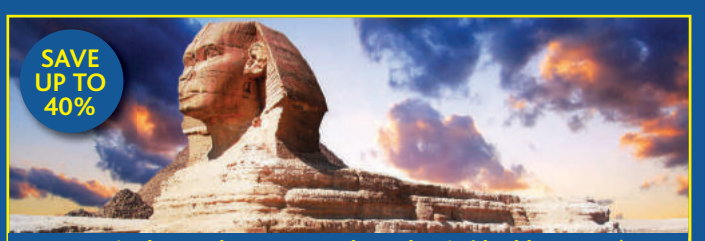

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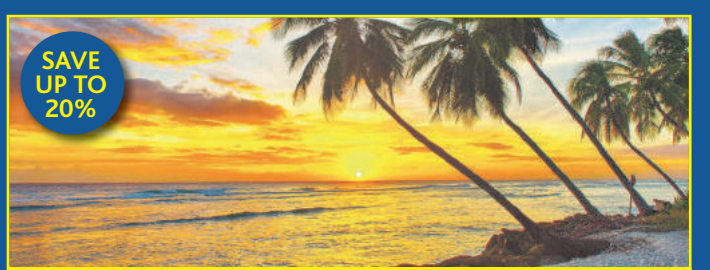

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Information evening for potential adopters

LANCASHIRE County Council is staging another of its special information events aimed at people considering adoption.

The next information evening will be held at County Hall, Fishergate, Preston on Tuesday, October 9 from 6 to 7.30pm.

There's no need to book - people can just turn up - but early arrival is recommended so that the presentation can start promptly at 6pm.

People attending are also asked to stay for the whole session.

The council focus is on two different types of adoption to enable more babies and young children to go and live with their permanent family more quickly.

Best for Baby (Concurrent Placements) place babies and young children, aged up to two, with foster carers who may go on to give them a permanent home.

Better Beginnings (The Fostering-for-Adoption scheme) is for children where there is no realistic prospect of a return to their birth family.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We're looking for people from all backgrounds to offer a permanent home and family to children who are not able to live with their birth family.

"What matters to us are your personal qualities, and that you are able to provide a loving home, where you can support and look after a child throughout their childhood and beyond.

County Councillor Susie Charles

"More children in Lancashire are benefiting from being placed with their adoptive families earlier, thanks to these programmes.

"Sometimes babies come into our care at birth or soon after, and they're looked after by foster carers, while we work with their parents to see if they can go home.

"If this isn't possible, the court process can take many months, and after that the baby usually has to move again, to their adoptive parents."

Best for Baby (Concurrent Placements) place a baby or child straight away with their prospective adopters, who are also approved as foster carers, while the birth family is assessed and the court makes a decision.

County Councillor Charles added: "Best for Baby placements mean that there's some degree of uncertainty for the adopters, because there is always a small chance the child might go home.

"If the adults can take on this uncertainty, the baby will have the chance of a more secure start in life. If they are adopted, they'll have been with their adoptive family for much longer."

Benefit

Better Beginnings (Foster-for-Adoption) carers are approved as temporary foster carers, but are prepared to adopt the child - if it is eventually decided that they can't return to their birth family.

Arrangements through the Better Beginnings scheme can give children continuous care in the home that they may settle in permanently, rather than spending months with other foster carers first. They also give the added benefit of allowing them to bond with their new family at an earlier age.

To adopt, people must be more than 21 and live in Lancashire or close by, whatever their race, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age or employment status.

Individuals can find out more about the information evening and the adoption process at www.lancashire.gov.uk/adoption or call the adoption team for an informal chat on 0300 123 6723.

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Hospital car park markings to be repainted after drivers' unfair fines

A VISITOR to Southport Hospital has accused the company that runs the site's car park of 'unfairly' making money from unclear bay markings and difficult-to-see signs.

When June Nelson visited the hospital in August she parked her Volkswagen Golf in what she believed to be one of the bays in the car park but when she went to pay the machine had a notice stuck to it which read, 'No tickets issued. Exit barrier open.'

However she was furious when she returned to her car to find a parking charge notice had been stuck to her windscreen telling her that she owed UK Parking Control (UKPC) a fee of £80, payable within 28 days, for 'not parking correctly within the markings of the bay or space.' The fee drops to £40 if paid within 14 days.

June Nelson points to the barely visible car park bays.

June told the Champion she genuinely believed she was parked in a bay but that the lines were very hard to distinguish due to the markings having almost completely eroded. A photograph of the bays appeared to back up her claim with markings barely visible.

She said: "Receiving the fine was really unfair as parking charges were not even payable at the time - although I would have bought a ticket if it was possible. I genuinely thought I was in a bay - as did all the others parked in the same area.

"Six motorists, including myself, had all been ticketed. I was disgusted as you can hardly see the UKPC notice and when I did find it, 20ft high and partially covered by branches, it made no mention of 'suitable' bays.

"I want to warn people using the car park to beware as it is clearly a nice little earner for UKPC to leave the 'unsuitable' bays as they are - they could have put traffic cones in them temporarily."

Her experience led Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, who own the car park, to investigate the claims and they have now promised to carry out remedial work next month to 'improve' the car park including 'freshening up' the white lines which mark the bay spaces.

And in a double victory for June, when she appealed against the fine bosses agreed to cancel her parking ticket.

A spokesperson for Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, said: "We are very sorry about the inconvenience caused to Mrs Nelson. Our internal panel has looked at her appeal and due to the evidence presented, the fine has been cancelled. UKPC will contact her to confirm this.

"Next month, we will be carrying out work to improve our car park and make better use of the area we have for visitor parking. This will include freshening up the white lines where needed, so people can clearly see available spaces."

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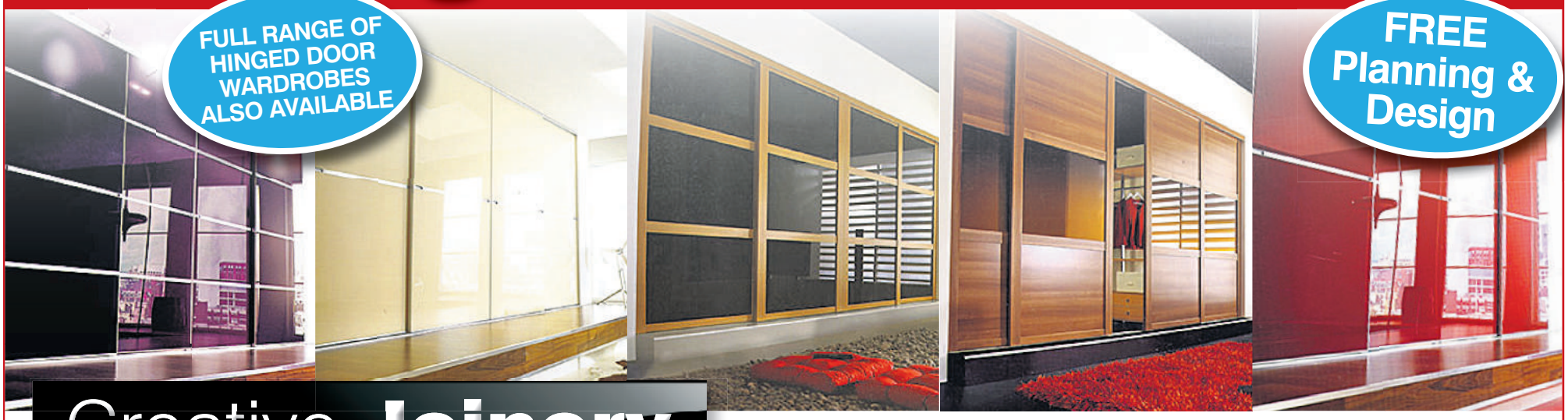

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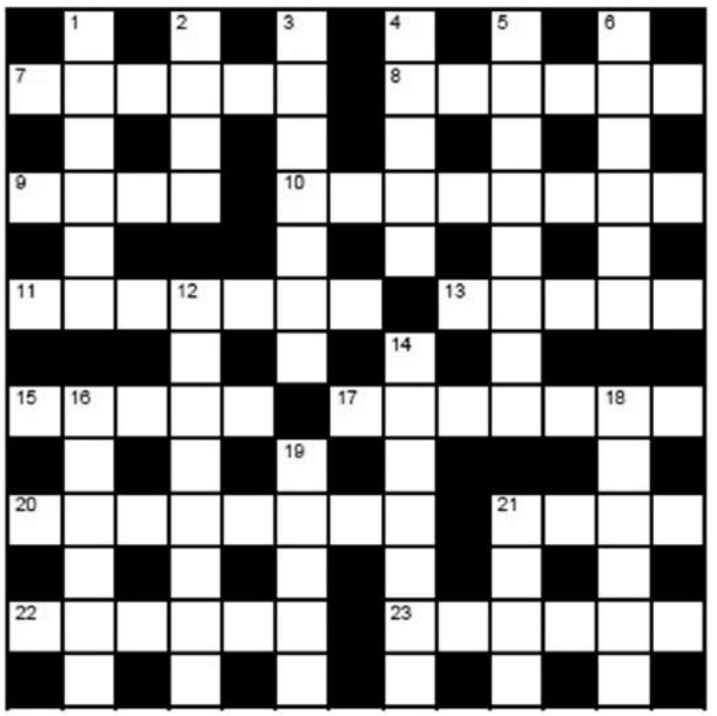

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Palate. 8. On hold. 9. Nest. 10. Red Cross. 11. Passion. 13. Polio. 15. Stool. 16. Overage. 18. All fours. 19. Polo. 21. Spiral. 22. Viewer.

Down: 1. Made. 2. Baptism of fire. 3. Bedroom. 4. Gouda. 5. Choreographer. 6. Blessing. 12. Antelope. 14. Evasive. 17. Quilt. 20. Lies.

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ACROSS

7. Next to (6)
8. Building or enclosure for keeping birds in (6)
9. Characteristic rising and falling of the voice when speaking; a pleasant gentle accent (4)
10. Young-looking (8)
11. Group or system of interconnected people or things (7)
13. The entrails and internal organs of an animal used as food (5)
15. Rental agreement (5)
17. Divert, sidetrack (7)
20. Lifeless (8)
21. Identical (4)
22. Mixed colours diamond pattern used in knitwear such as sweaters or socks (6)
23. Sheen, gloss (6)

DOWN

1. Sully, debase (6)
2. Haze or light fog (4)
3. US City, The Big Apple (3, 4)
4. Not clearly defined, uncertain (5)
5. Having a legitimate right to property, position, or status (8)
6. Deeply distressing or disturbing experience (6)
12. Person who makes sarcastic or sneering remarks to appear clever; smart alec (4, 3)
14. Usually short motivational address (3, 4)
16. Complete, whole (6)
18. Device for taking photos (6)
19. Periods when shops offer goods at reduced prices (5)
21. Informal term meaning to realise or understand something (4)

WI ladies celebrate 50th anniversary with a nostalgic trip back to the Swinging Sixties

SCARISBRICK Women's Institute celebrated its 50th birthday with a trip back to the 1960s.

Members enjoyed an evening of nostalgia and fellowship with a drinks reception looking at memorabilia going back to the group inception in September 1968.

A party buffet was provided with plenty of variety, including the popular 1960s pastries, vol-au-vents.

Many of the ladies dressed in the styles of the 60s and they were also helped to get in the mood with music from the era playing in the background.

Guests for the evening included Jackie Hobson, Federation Chairman of Lancashire WIs; Flora Waterworth, founder president of Scarisbrick WI and Rhiannon Cannon, advisor to Scarisbrick WI.

Jackie Hobson presented the 50 years certificate to present Scarisbrick WI president, Sue Butterworth after they had made the first cut of a celebration cake together with Flora Waterworth.

The cake, made by secretary, Sue Myatt, depicted Scarisbrick WI as a growing tree with all the members named on the individual leaves.

The evening concluded with the members being entertained by Rae Owens, of the Chicago Teddy Bears Society Jazz Band, in true, toe-tapping style.

All the ladies were presented with a commemorative green and silver pen.

Meanwhile the group is always looking to welcome new members. Meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of the month at Scarisbrick Village Hall, Smithy Lane. For more information ring 01772 459020.

Above: Jackie Hobson presents the 50-year certificate to Sue Butterworth.
Below: The special 'tree' cake.

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MONDAYS and THURSDAYS @2pm
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Lots of laughs in store at resort's Comedy Festival

Report by **Henry James**

PHILL Jupitus will be among the big names appearing at the eighth Annual Southport Comedy Festival, which runs from October 4 to 21.

With 18 days of laughter, the festival promises to be the biggest and best yet with more TV names, more venues and even more events including the popular Comedy Pub Crawls.

The Potting Shed, Southport, is the new sponsor of the annual Southport New Comedian Competition and all heats and the Grand Final will be held in their Lord Street venue.

This year's line-up sees the return of some festival favourites, Jimeoin, Jo Caulfield, Tom Binns and Irish funny man Jason Byrne all appearing with new shows. Jason now known as the 'King of the Festival' makes his fifth return visit.

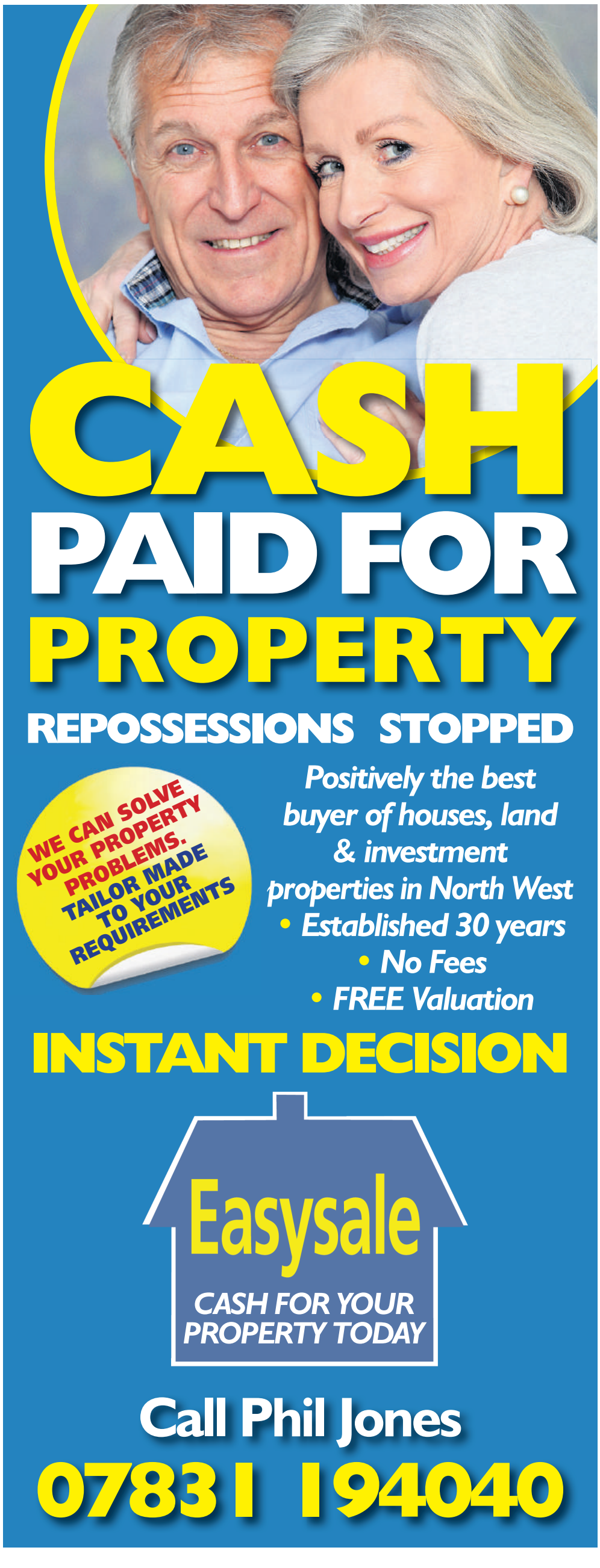
Other familiar names appearing are Zoe Lyons and Hal Cruttenden while the 'Festival Specials' at the Bold Hotel star Paul (The Sinnerman) Sinha of ITV's The Chase, and Britain's Got Talent finalist Micky P Kerr. Other highlights include award-winning comedians Sam Avery and Phil Nichol and also playing at the Bold Hotel are 'viral internet sensations' Farmer Michael and Kathleen. This comedy duo from Ireland have gathered a following of more than 200,000 people worldwide with some of their sketches reaching more than 20 million YouTube views in addition to sell-out shows in the UK and Ireland. As well as classic stand-up, there are comedy pub crawls, 'squeaky clean' shows, comedy bingo, theatre shows, a free children's comedy trail event supported by Southport BID and restaurant shows with a meal included.

Phill Jupitus

The festival is supporting a number of charities including: Community Link Foundation, When You Wish Upon a Star, Friends of Bridge Inn Community Farm and Duchenne UK.

A spokesman for the comedy festival commented: "The Southport Comedy Festival uses local venues and works with local businesses to deliver comedy for all, up close and personal. This enables us to keep ticket prices low with shows starting from £5 and if you buy your tickets direct from the venues there are no additional booking fees.

"Once more we are extremely grateful to our fantastic local and national sponsors. Without their support we just couldn't bring you such great comedy year after year."



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Dance Holidays

Chance to take a fresh look at your local library as part of week-long celebration

WEST Lancashire libraries will be taking part in a week-long celebration of libraries, from Monday, October 8 to Saturday, October 13.

Libraries across the borough will have the opportunity during the week to demonstrate the services and activities they offer, including showcasing their digital resources, learning opportunities and family activities.

An activities event called Ready, Steady Mo! will be held on Monday, October 8 from 10.30 to 11.30am for all pre-school children at Tarleton library.

Meanwhile as part of Libraries Week and to mark Skelmersdale Library celebrating 40 years, the Southway will welcome back author Carol Fenlon on Monday, October 8 from 6 to 7pm. In an informal setting Carol will be talking about some of the major events in 1978 - when the library opened - and inviting people to share their memories of both the time and the town.

There will be a Wellbeing Event at Ormskirk Library on Tuesday, October 9 starting at 2pm.

And at Tarleton Library on Tuesday, October 9 from 3pm residents will be able to join in a read-through of A Small Murder by Simon Brett.

Also at Tarleton library on Tuesday, October 9 from 4 to 6pm there is a chance to find out how to stay healthy online with NHS Choices and Accessing GP services online.

A signwriting demonstration and coffee morning will be held at Skelmersdale library on Wednesday, October 10 from 10.30am to 11.30am.

Other events include a relax and de-stress event at Parbold Library on Thursday, October 11 at 2pm; a local history walk around Tarleton, starting from the library, on Thursday, October 11 from 2.30 to 4pm; and a talk by Michael Barrett about his book Preston North End – The Rise of the Invincibles on Saturday, October 13 from 11am to noon.

This year's theme is on supporting people with their mental health, and events and activities at local libraries will support this.

Much-loved

County Councillor Peter Buckley, Lancashire County Council's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "We're taking part in the national week to celebrate all that we offer in our much-loved libraries.

"I hope that people see this as an opportunity to take a fresh look at their local library, discover what's on offer and encourage their friends and family to do the same."

People can call in at their local library to find out more information about Libraries Week, and the events and activities that are taking place.

Libraries Week is supported by the UK's library and information association CILIP, the Arts Council, the Society of Chief Librarians, the Reading Agency, the School Library Association and the Libraries Taskforce.

Anyone who lives or works in Lancashire can join a library, either online or by visiting in person. Membership is free and there are no age restrictions.

For more information, go to www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries or call 0300 123 6703.

The events taking place as part of Libraries Week are available at http://bit.ly/librariesweek

For more information about Reading for Health visit http://bit.ly/lancsread4health.

Maharishi pupils snap up top marks in photo exam

PUPILS and staff at Maharishi School are celebrating "exceptional results" gained by Year 10 pupils in the new GCSE photography course, introduced this year for the first time by photography teacher, Mrs Cleary.

Of the 12 pupils who took the extra-curricular qualification, 10 gained the new Grade 9 (equivalent to A*) and two gained Grade 7 (equivalent to grade A).

Headteacher, Mrs Edwards, said: "These fantastic results are testament to the hard work and dedication of Mrs Cleary, as well as the willingness of each and every one of our Year 10 pupils to respond enthusiastically to the projects and opportunities they were presented with. We are very proud of this outstanding achievement."

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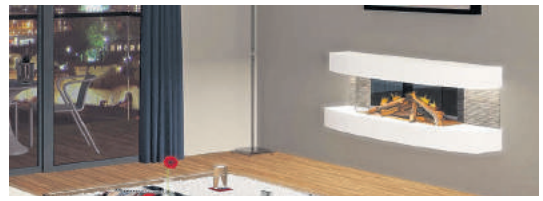

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Champion ENTERTAINMENT

The cast of the Southport theatre pantomime

Sam Kane returning to town for this year's pantomime

SOUTHPORT Theatre's sights are firmly focused on their magical family pantomime Beauty and the Beast.

The show stars Sam Kane as Eugene, Jason Marc-Williams as Dame Kimmy Shoo, Alistair Barron as Simon, Toni Howard as Beauty, Joshua Ford as Prince / Beast and David Gilbrook as Cedric, Beauty's father. Recently a number of the cast were getting in to the panto spirit at the photo shoot.

Jason said: "Having worked with Sam, Alistair and Toni last year it was great to be reunited with them again at the shoot. We had each other in stitches within minutes and I now cannot wait for rehearsals to begin."

Alistair added: "I am delighted to be back in Southport again this year. I loved playing Ugly last year but I am quite relieved in a way to be playing comic again as there aren't so many costume changes!"

Playing the role of Eugene, which is similar to Gaston in the Disney version, ticks a massive box for Sam. "I think it is one of the best roles in theatre and I am delighted to finally be playing the part. Eugene is both a villain and a comic so is a great challenge and a lot of fun."

Toni Howard is thrilled to be returning, having played Cinderella in last year's smash hit show. "Beauty is going to be a fantastic role as she is clever, kind and strong willed. I love the way she stands up to the Beast and the way that their relationship develops."

This is Joshua Ford's first pantomime in Southport and he is already threatening to sneak his costume in to his bag at the end of the run. "I just love the purple coat that I get to wear as Prince – the whole costume is great. I haven't seen the Beast costume yet so really looking forward to finding out what that is like."

David Gilbrook has been busy touring the UK this year and is looking forward to spending a few weeks by the seaside. "I played the role of Beauty's father in Beauty and the Beast in Newark last year and so I am delighted to be asked to reprise it in Southport this Christmas. I just love the show as it has romance, adventure, great musical numbers as well as lots of traditional panto humour – it really is a beauty of a show!" The show will be presented from December 14 until December 30.

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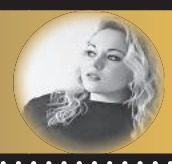

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Saturday 8th December
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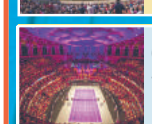
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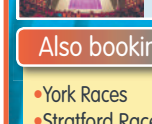
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Llandudno — Risboro Hotel

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Fri 14 Dec	Robbie Williams/Freddie Mercury	£79.95	£109.95
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LADIES COAT Marks & Spencers size 20 coat. Light green leaves. Worn once, like new, in excellent condition. Bargain £20 01704220356

MANS SUIT black two piece. Westbrook fine tailoring jacket 54 inch Regular. trousers 48 waist 29 inch leg. excellent condition £20, 01704220356

RADLEY BAG Crossover body/shoulder bag good size, can send photo £35 o.n.o 07425139656

ROMAN ORIGINALS Three quarter wool mix coat dark red and black muted colour Worn 3 times £20.00 o.n.o. 07425139656

LEATHER COAT Ladies full length Dark Brown coat with drop waist detail on the back. Size 12. Excellent condition. £50 0151 9321725

UNION RIVER New jacket size L £20 01704 896882

GENTS SUIT New gents suit which still has labels on bought from Next, 36 inch waste, regular leg, jacket. £69 07387439004

HOTTER SHOES Ladies Navy "hotter" shoes style sugar size 4 £20 07874884206

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HUGO BOSS TOP Polo mens, navy blue,slim fit, small, labels still on , never worn, wrong size bought in airport. £45 07553954226

MEN'S SLAZENGER trainers-size 7.5/black/lace up. Worn once. £12 07855222552/07821417560

FOOTBALL SHIRTS everton home football shirt puma size x.large mens 2000/2002 one-2one £15.00 ono 07790791733

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COMPUTER DESK Teak Effect / office or home. good condition/ Swivel section for space management. £48 07512998290

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IBM R61I Laptop core duo 1.5Ghz, Windows 10, MS Office, DVDRW, charger. laptop bag, As New condition and perfect working order £125 01704831977

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STAG SIDEBOARD very solid heavy well made stag side board vgc. has 2 cupboards with shelving both sides a lovely piece £25ono 07741206449

WASH BASKET Clean white Curver brand wash basket, the type you empty the washing machine contents into. £5.00 01704 546978

POUFFE Sherbourn quality cube shape modern black pouffe in easy-clean leatherette material. 18 inches square by 11 inches lovely condition 01704 546978

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SMALL TABLE Square dark wood table with under shelf £15 07756229527

3SEATER SOFA Dark brown leather 39 inch high by 36 inch deep by 90 inch long £150 ono 07756229527

CHEST DRAWERS Dark wood 5 deep drawers 30 inch wide by 48 inch high by 16 inch deep £50 ono 07756229527

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WICKER CHAIR shaped like commode chair but not. Green painted white and with cushion. £20 01695 420950

ERCOL SUITE 3 PIECE SUITE - Good condition - £150.00 - Collection from Ormskirk 07926398195

LEATHER ARMCHAIR Brown, VG as new condition £125 ono 07512998290

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COFFEE TABLE Large Oval Pine Table, ideal for chalk paint would look great. Size W 49inch x 31inch x H 18inch £20 07876701547

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HOUSE AND HOME

CEILING LIGHT Modern three light ceiling light in brushed steel £14 01704564732

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OAK WARDROBE Oak Single wardrobe with double opening doors, as new £75 07780850905

OAK WARDROBE Double oak wardrobe with sliding doors in excellent condition needs two men to dismantle and take away £50 07780850905

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DRESSINGTABLE UNITS Dressing table and 2 x 3 drawer bedside cabinets in Cream with a cornflower motif £50 07780850905

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GAS FIRE Valor, Blenheim style, multiflue, output 3.1kw, brass surround, realistic coal effect, brand new, cost £190, will accept £100 o.n.o. 01704 876855

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MISC

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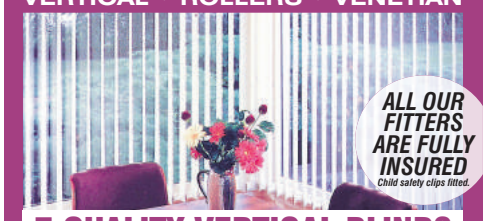

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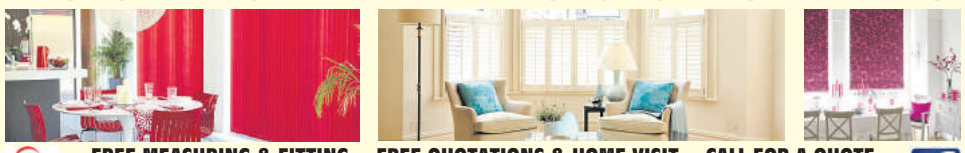

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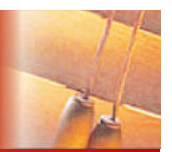

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ROBERTS DAVID

Sheila and all the Family would like to thank so many friends for cards, flowers and generous donations to the Emmanuel refurb scheme.
A special thanks to Reverend Sue for her strong support and beautiful service, and to Mark for his music.
To the staff of Asmall Hall for caring for Dave for the last year and to Ward 15A Southport hospital for their dignified and compassionate treatment in Dave's last few days.
To Sally and the MLS team for their kindness and professional care.

To place a family **announcement** please call 01704 392392 or visit champnews.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ROBINSON KERRI

(nee Haslam)

Callum, Connor and Family would like to express sincere thanks to all who have sent messages, cards, memories and donations to MIND in respect of Kerri. These have been of great comfort during such a difficult time. Special thanks to Lisa and Ollie at MLS Funeral Directors for their support and advice and to Sandra Howells for such a lovely eulogy.

CARDWELL LISA

Alison and all the family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the sympathy cards, messages of condolence and donations for Queenscourt Hospice, received during their recent sad loss. Thanks also to Rev. David Benge for kind words of comfort, and to MLS Independent Funeral Directors for the dignified funeral arrangements.

DEATHS

KELLET AUDREY NUTTALL
(nee Barlow)

Passed away peacefully on 24th September 2018 aged 89 years of Southport

Dearly Loved Wife of the Late Eric. Much Loved Mum of Jennifer, Sally & Nicholas. Loving Nana of Anna, Sasha, Christie, Laura, Freya, Tansy & Kezia. Great Grandmother of Ellie & Georgie. Funeral Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 5th October 2018 at 2.00 pm, Family flowers only please by request, but donations are being gratefully received for Alzheimer's Research. Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tel: 01695 424888

CARSON LESLIE (LES)

14th September 2018 Suddenly at home aged 77 years

Much loved Dad, Grandad, Brother and Uncle. Will be very sadly missed by all family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 8th October at 1.45pm. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

DEATHS

SHEPHERD ANGELA

26th September 2018 aged 81 years

Adored Mum to Stephen, Sandy, Bobby, Julie, Philip and Andrew. Loved Mother-in-law to Susan, Paul and Lynn. Cherished Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Reunited with her beloved Husband Les once again.
'Forever in our hearts'
Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Thursday 4th October at 12.15pm.
Enquiries to Devonports Funeral Services Tel:01695 731199

Want to place a family announcement? Visit **champnews.com**

SHACKLADY BETTY (ELIZABETH)

Passed away suddenly on Sunday 23rd September 2018 at Southport Hospital

Dearly loved Mum to Thomas and Paul. Much loved Mother-in-law to Brenda and Kate. Dearly loved Nan to Emma, Thomas and Lauren. Much loved Great Grandma to Henry and Rosie. Betty will be sadly missed by all. Funeral service will be held at West Lancashire Crematorium, Friday 5th October 2018 at 1pm. All enquiries to Hunters of Ormskirk, 128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 572997

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DEATHS

WILLIAMS ELWYN

Mary and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy and support, cards and generous donations at this sad time.
Thank you to Mike Faun for his kind ministrations and to Neal Buckley for his dignified funeral arrangements.

RUSS JUDITH

24th September 2018
Passed away peacefully aged 84 years of Westhead

Devoted Wife of Brian, Much loved Mum of Martin and Colin, dearly loved Nana of Pippa, Jon and Harriet. Funeral Service at St. James' Church, Westhead, on Thursday 4th October at 1.00pm, followed by interment at St. Michael's Churchyard, Aughton.. Family flowers only please but donations if so desired for the World Wildlife Fund, and Guide Dogs for the blind. Donations and further enquires please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Tele: 01695 424888

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DEATHS

FLEETWOOD PATRICIA MAUREEN (PAT)

21st September 2018
Peacefully in hospital aged 75 years

Loving Wife of Bill, devoted Mum of Mark, Carol and Debbie, cherished Nan and Great Nan of all her Grandchildren. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 4th October at 11.30am. Family flowers only please by request. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel:01695 559868

IN MEMORIAM

CYNTHIA HELEN LONG

6th October 2017

Always in our Thoughts,
Forever in our Hearts

From All your Loving Family
XXX

RYAN VERONICA

6 years
October 4th

Sadly missed.
Along life's way,
Quietly remembered every day.
No longer in my life to share, but in my heart you're always there.
Loved always
Husband Joe
xx

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PRAYERS

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

MJ

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PUBLIC NOTICES

DOREEN DORAGH
(Maiden name: ELLIOTT)
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Stocks Hall Nursing Home, 50C White Moss Road, Skelmersdale WN8 8BL. Previous address 14 Pine Crest, Aughton, Ormskirk L39 5HX, who died on 08/01/2018, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 04/12/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BRIGHOUSE WOLFF, 28 Derby Street, Ormskirk L39 2BY. Ref: JD 114871 Doragh

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/0975/FUL Proposed new carport and store structure at The Bungalow, Cross Lane, Halsall.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/0991/FUL The reinstatement of a former front portico. Extension and alterations to rear garage and single storey at 53 St Helens Road, Ormskirk.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e-mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 24 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.
How information about you will be used
The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy-and-data-protection-gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Director of Development and Regeneration — Dated:3rd October 2018 PDNOT1013

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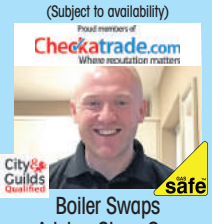

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David wants Lotus involvement in greener motoring

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‘I don’t want to sleepwalk into a world of dull, plug-in hybrid crossovers with no enjoyment’

THERE were a couple of confused-looking faces in the audience as Lotus’ new boss laid out his plans.

Last weekend I was at the company’s factory in Norfolk for its 70th anniversary party – and while the place was packed with Esprits, Elises and Evoras the focus was just as much on what the new chief exec had to say about the sports car specialist’s future.

Feng Qingfeng has been instilled at the top of the Lotus tree by its new Chinese owners – and they’ll be investing heavily in making sure it carried on innovating. In clever design, hybrid technology, and, er, autonomous driving.

The sports car faithful shrugged their shoulders at that last bit. Why would the company that brought us the Elan Sprint – and the Europa Twin Cam, the Esprit Sport 300 and the Evora S for that matter - be ploughing its know-how into cars that do the fun bit for you?

I scratched my head a bit too. Chucking an Elise at a corner and marvelling at how wonderfully connected its steering and suspension make you feel to the action is just about as petrolhead as you can get.

The one thing that defines every Lotus is how all that clever tech makes it revel in a decent road. Which, actually, is why you’d want Lotus to stick its oar in when autonomous driving’s concerned. We’re on the cusp of an era of electrically-powered cars that are entirely different to ones a lot of us have grown up with, but while they’re safer and cleaner than ever before they’re also heavier, bulkier and as a result more dim-witted when conditions get a bit dicey.

If we aren’t careful we’ll end up sleepwalking into a world of technologically brilliant, but tremendously dull, plug-in hybrid crossovers that have engineered all the enjoyment out.

In the battle for clever, greener motoring I’d definitely want the chaps who brought us a 170mph Vauxhall Carlton fighting our corner.

When Lotus weren’t racing in Formula One and building Emma Peel’s wheels of choice they were sprinkling their engineering know-how into everyday cars, and I reckon they’ve got a big part to play in making sure that tomorrow’s cars go around corners properly. So please, Mr Qingfeng, let’s get Lotus doing its bit.

Although a new Esprit would be lovely too, now that you mention it…

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly.

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Alfa Romeo announces launch of new models

ALFA ROMEO has launched a new trio of special edition models.

The Giulietta hatchback, Giulia saloon and Stelvio off-roader are all now available in Nero Edizione form – or Black Edition in English, which gives you a clue as to what colour much of the trim on the cars is.

They’re all available to order now, with prices starting at £23,790 for the Giulietta, £34,990 for the Giulia and £40,090 for the Stelvio.

Mitsubishi becomes even more luxurious

TWO plush new trim levels have been announced for the nation’s best-selling plug-in hybrid.

The Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV is now available from dealers in 5h and 5hs form – previously the range-topper was the 4hs model, but the new version adds in leather upholstery, an Alpine sound system and interior mood lighting among other gadgets. Prices for these more luxurious models start at £41,000, and they’re available to order now.

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Hughes ends top scorer for Burscough with 507 runs while Andrews was leading wicket taker

IT'S now time to look back on the league statistics from the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition First and Division starting with champions Southport & Birkdale, *writes Glenn Wallworth*.

Chris Firth led his side to the title and back to the top flight, with Brad Yates leading the way with the bat for his club and the division with 814 runs @ 58.14, 2 x 100 4 x 50 HS 134*.

Valuable support came from Harry May 382 @ 31.83, 1 x 50 HS 62, Adam Phillips 376 @ 22.12, 3 x 50 HS 83 and Isaac Lea 371 @ 26.50, 2 x 50 HS 82.

The vastly experienced Gary Keedy led the way with the ball with 58 wickets @ 9.48, best 6-10 and 4 x 5 wickets, skipper Firth weighed in with 44 @ 12.61 best 8-41, Andy Warhurst 35 @ 12.34 best 8-24 and Chris Cunningham 35 @ 15.34 best 5-44, whilst in the field Phillips held on to 20 catches and Yates took 22 victims behind the stumps with 14 catches and 8 stumpings.

Ainsdale finished in fourth place with Stephen Lucas replacing Andy Barlow as skipper midway through the season, Lucas himself led the way with the bat and finished second in the division with 793 runs @ 46.65, 2 x 100 3 x 50 HS 133*, whilst Mark Lucas weighed in with 546 @ 32.12, 4 x 50 HS 72, Barlow 368 @ 18.40, 2 x 50 HS 80 and Brandon Faber 356 @ 27.38, 1 x 50 HS 59*.

Martyn Farrell was the pick of the bowlers with 51 wickets @ 14.41 best 6-19 and 5 x 5 wickets, whilst skipper Lucas took 36 @ 18.42 best 5-34 and Mal Swift took 32 @ 14.13 best 7-25, Swift also took 17 catches in the field, whilst Faber took 24 victims behind the stumps with 14 catches and 10 stumpings.

Three different captains took control at Fleetwood Hesketh who finished in eighth place with Andrew Watts in charge for the last few matches, Watts himself was unavailable for the majority of the season and still led the way with the bat with 391 @ 35.55, 4 x 50 HS 93 with Neil Rimmer not far behind with 354 @ 16.86 HS 49.

Gavin Dickenson led the way with the ball with 58 wickets @ 13.64 best 8-30 and 6 x 5 wickets, whilst Danny Murphy was second with 19 @ 24.11 best 4-32.

In the field Derek Sykes took 9 catches and former skipper Scott Rimmer took 20 victims behind the stumps with 15 catches and 5 stumpings.

Jon Stone's Burscough were relegated, with Ryan Hughes leading the way with the bat with 507 runs @ 28.17, 1 x 100 2 x 50 HS 138*, whilst support came from Stone 398 @ 23.41, 3 x 50 HS 81 and Alan Murray 374 @ 26.71, 3 x 50 HS 81.

Chris Andrews took most of their wickets with 35 @ 19.89 best 7-17 and 2 x 5 wickets and Lee Berrie took 27 @ 19.59 best of 5-33, whilst in the field Stone took 10 catches.

● Next week we shall look at the players statistics for our local teams in Divison Two, player movements and of course, who got the most ducks this season.

Skem beat league leaders to clinch first win of season

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Radcliffe 0
Skelmersdale United 2

SKELMERSDALE won their first league game of the season in style after they beat top-of-the-table Radcliffe.

It had probably been coming after three consecutive draws but Skem finally picked up three points on Saturday.

Hosts Radcliffe started in top position in Evo-Stik Division One West, Skelmersdale started the day in bottom place, so any reasonable bookmakers would have made Skem long odds to win on the day.

It was a hard fought but ultimately deserved victory for Skem, initially defending solidly before hitting the league leaders with a goal straight after half-time and another in added time at the end.

After an early foray onto the attack by Skem, Radcliffe threatened inside the first minute but Skelmersdale goalkeeper Terry Smith beat away a shot from Elliot Rokka.

On 21 minutes home goalkeeper Ollie Martin made a good save low down from Kevin Edgar but soon Shelton Payne split the Skem defence apart with as superbly weighted ball, George West rounded Smith but from an acute angle his shot was cleared off the line.

Skelmersdale stunned Radcliffe less than a minute after the break. Duffy played a ball through the home defence that left them stranded and Sean Yeldrem created an angle from about 15 yards to lift the ball over keeper Martin and it rolled into the net.

Edgar scores Skem's second to wrap up all three points. Picture by John Driscoll

Radcliffe had a great chance eight minutes from time when a free-kick was dropped at the far post but Matt Carr's header was again poor and this was followed up by a Duke shot that curled just past the Radcliffe goal.

As added time approached Edgar gave the hosts a warning of what was to follow, a Skem counter-attack resulting in an Edgar shot that had to be well saved by Martin.

When the referee was rather generous to Radcliffe with the added time given, five minutes, it made no difference, Radcliffe had run out of ideas and created very little.

In the third minute of added time Skelmersdale killed the game off, Griffiths strolled forward and put a neat ball through to Edgar, this time his shot went under Martin.

The win lifts Skelmersdale up to 18th place in the table above Chasetown and Clitheroe.

They have picked up five points out of the last nine available and that is a huge boost to their hopes.

Manager Dave Powell said: "I am so proud of the lads, they have become tighter and tighter as a group and working so hard for the club to deliver results.

"It is a platform that we can move on from, but it is important that the lads realise that we have got to carry on working and carry on applying ourselves and working our way up the league. We must never think we can't get better, that's a key thing."

Whyte makes up for missed penalty by bagging a brace

Padiham 2
Burscough 3

BURSCOUGH hung on to come out on top of a five-goal thriller against Padiham.

Much of the talk before the game was about Burscough midfielder Josh Dunroe who took to the field and warmed up with Padiham.

It transpired that he was transferred to them during the week and was to make his Padiham debut against Burscough.

Burscough started the game well and in the 12th minute they were awarded a penalty, which Chad Whyte missed.

Whyte stepped up but his spot-kick was a poor one and keeper Aghayere saved it comfortably.

Still Burscough looked to have plenty of energy and were forcing the hosts back onto the defensive, the hosts relying on swift counterattacks, one of which was fruitful in the 25th minute when Michael Fowler finished well.

An equaliser was coming and on 40 minutes it duly arrived when Whyte used his strength to hold off a defender and fire the ball into the far corner to make it 1-1. Burscough completed their turnaround a minute before half-time through a well taken goal by Matt Ward.

Although the second-half didn't have quite the same goalmouth action it wasn't boring at all.

Chad Whyte in action for Burscough. Picture by Marc Taylor

Eight minutes from the end Burscough hopes got a huge boost via centre-forward Whyte, who chested down a long ball before hitting the ball across Aghayere to make it 3-1.

Burscough's two goal advantage was needed as Padiham scored when Liam O'Neill controlled the ball on the edge of the 18 yard box in the 87th minute before firing in a second for Padiham.

It was all hands to the pump for Burscough, and they had to hang on for the win.

Skem look to build on three-match unbeaten streak

SUPPORTERS of Skelmersdale United and Burscough both have home games on Saturday.

The Linnets play 1874 Northwich for the second time this season at Victoria Park at 3pm, while Skelmersdale have a very interesting game that will be a reunion with old friends, as visitors Widnes are packed with former Skelmersdale players.

Burscough have played 1874 Northwich twice already this season in the FA Cup.

Dave Sutton's lads were hauled back from 2-0 up for a draw in the first game at Burscough before making the midweek trip to play them at their Winsford home and returning with a win in the replay.

As such it could be said that 1874 will no doubt be out for revenge. So it should be an exciting encounter on Saturday.

Skelmersdale face a whole group of former players at Prescot. Widnes are jointly managed by former Skelmersdale centre-back Steve Akrigg and former Skelmersdale striker Kevin Towey and both often don a shirt too.

Last Saturday they drew 1-1 with Newcastle Town and had three former Skelmersdale players in their starting line-up and another three on the bench!

Widnes were promoted from the North-West Counties league at the end of last season and beat Burscough in a closely fought Macron Cup Final in May.

They sit five places and four points above Skelmersdale in the league table. The game is actually being played closer to Widnes than it is Skelmersdale so there is every reason to expect a good away following at the match and a good atmosphere as a result. The kick off is 3pm.

Burscough have a midweek game in the Liverpool Senior Cup next Tuesday when they came out of the hat with an away tie at Ashton Town, Skelmersdale received a bye through to the next round, where they will play away to Liverpool-based Lower Breck in the next round. So Skelmersdale are without a midweek game next week.

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